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(54) **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BINAURAL RENDERING AUDIO SIGNAL USING VARIABLE ORDER FILTERING IN FREQUENCY DOMAIN**

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This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

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CPC **G10L 19/008** (2013.01); **H04R 5/033** (2013.01); **H04S 3/00** (2013.01); **H04S 3/002** (2013.01);
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CPC .. H04S 2400/01; H04S 2420/01; H04S 3/008; H04S 2420/07; H04S 2400/03;
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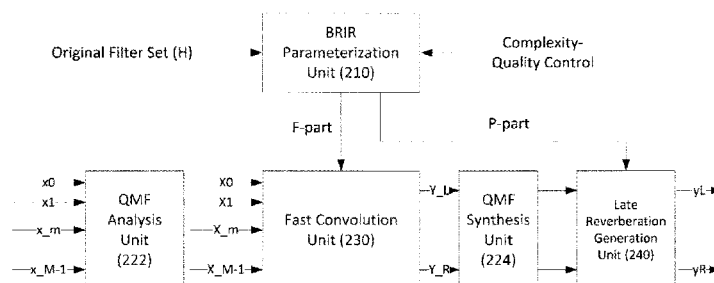
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for binaural rendering an audio signal using variable order filtering in frequency domain. To this end, provided are a method for processing an audio signal including: receiving an input audio signal; receiving a set of truncated subband

(Continued)

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filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the input audio signal, the set of truncated subband filter coefficients being constituted by one or more FFT filter coefficients generated by performing FFT by a predetermined block size; generating at least one subframe for each subband; generating at least one filtered subframe for each subband; performing inverse FFT on the filtered subframe for each subband; and generating a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding the transformed subframe for each subband and an apparatus for processing an audio signal using the same.

14 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets

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 CPC H04S 7/30; H04S 2420/03; H04S 2420/11; H04S 3/00; G10L 19/008; G10L 19/0204; G10L 25/48; H04R 5/04; H04R 2499/13; H04R 3/00; G06F 17/5009
 USPC 381/17, 310, 300, 302, 1, 18, 22, 303, 381/307, 309, 59; 700/94
 See application file for complete search history.

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FIG. 1

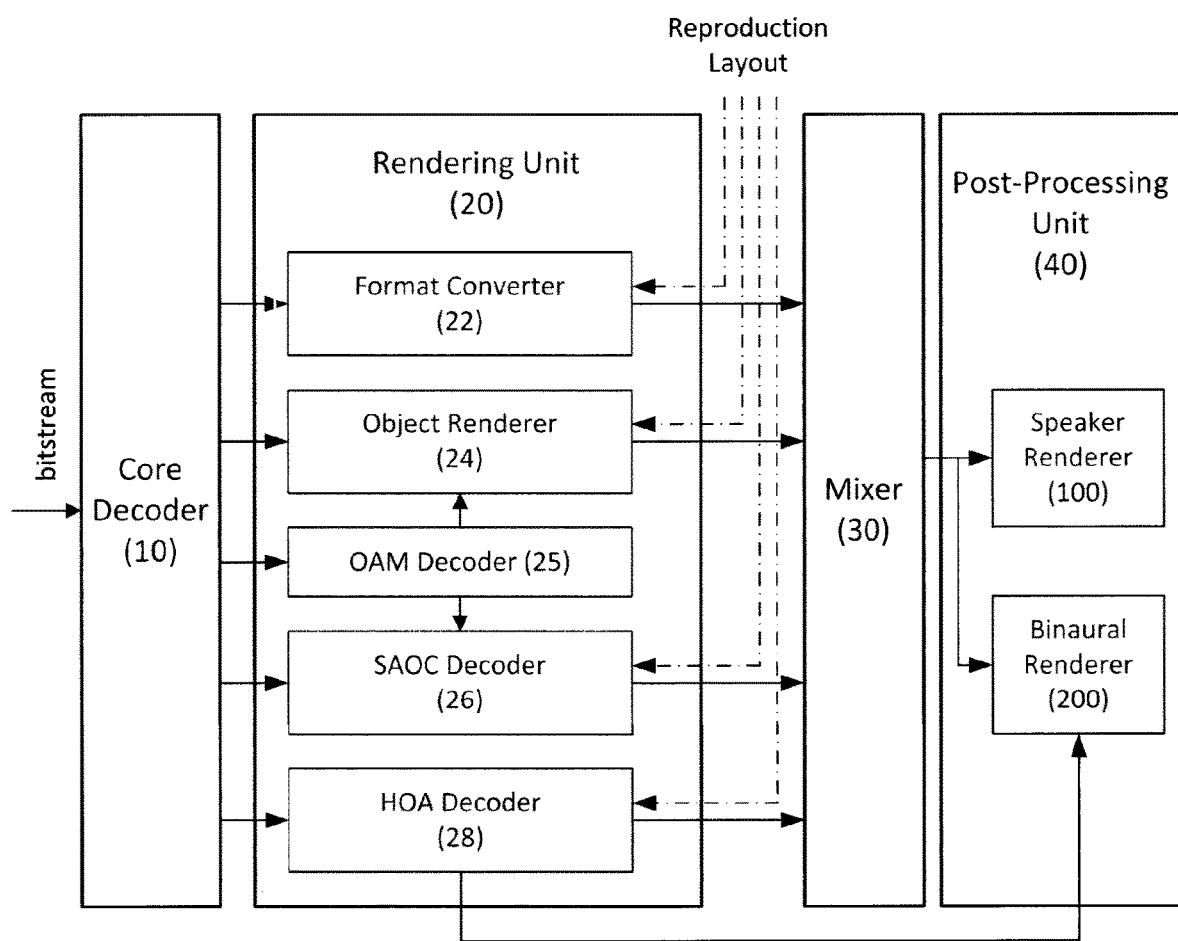


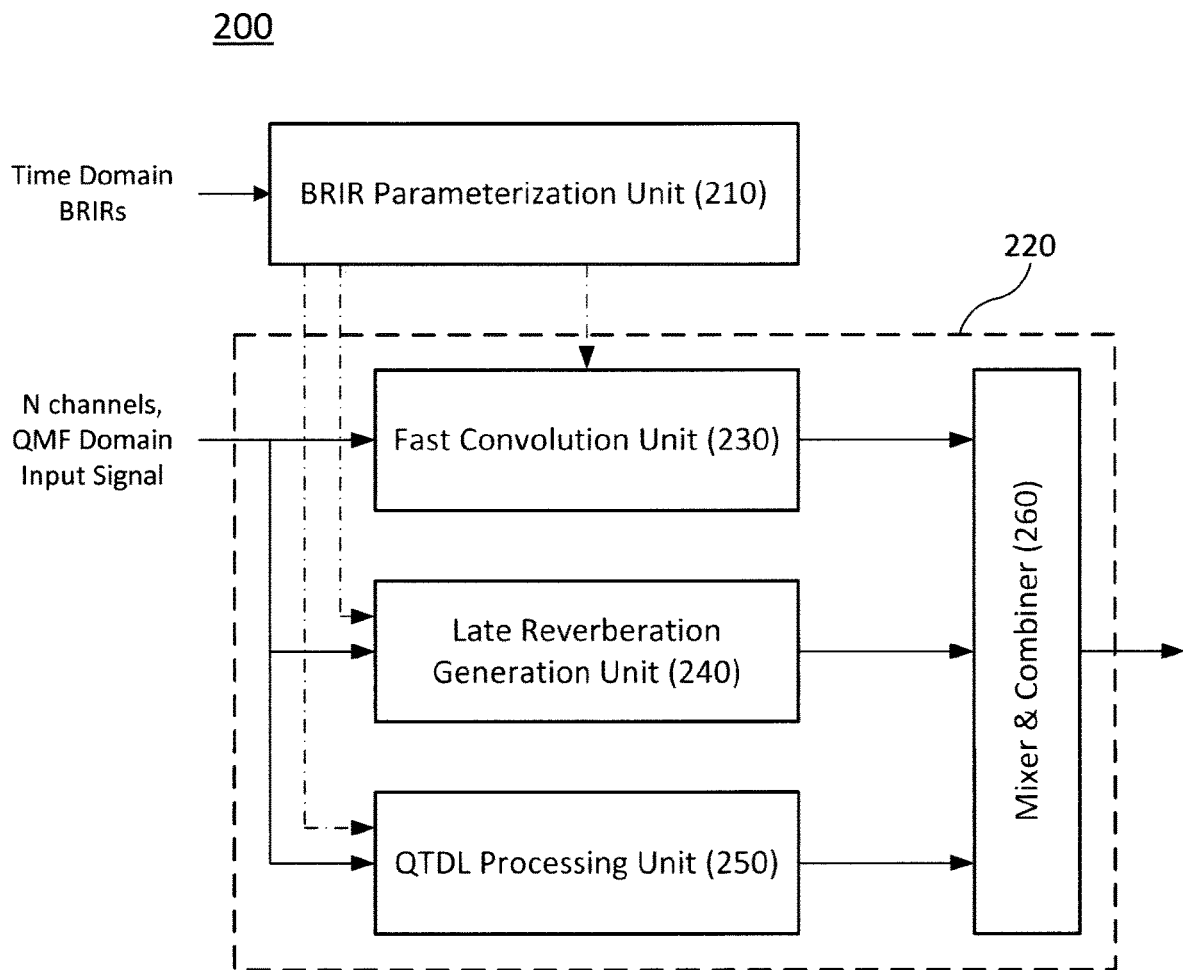
FIG. 2

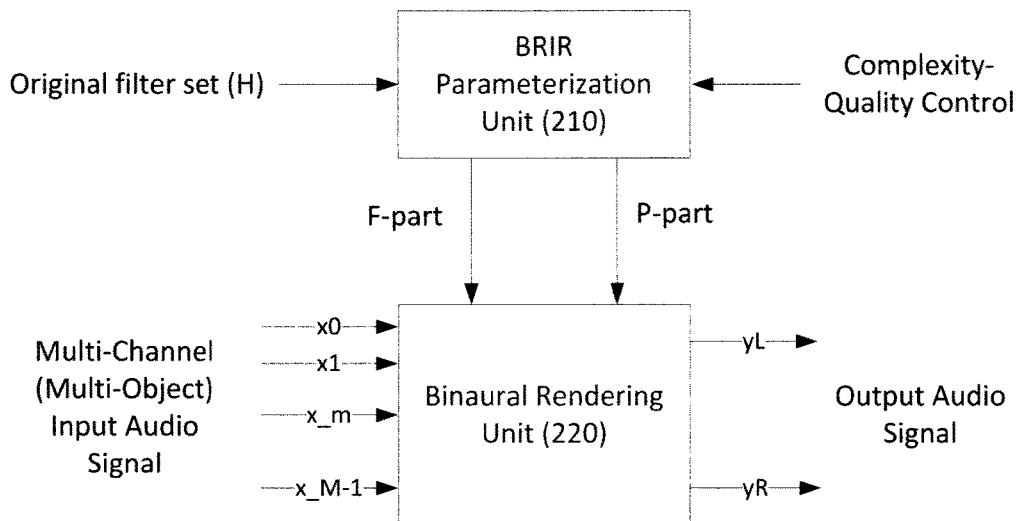
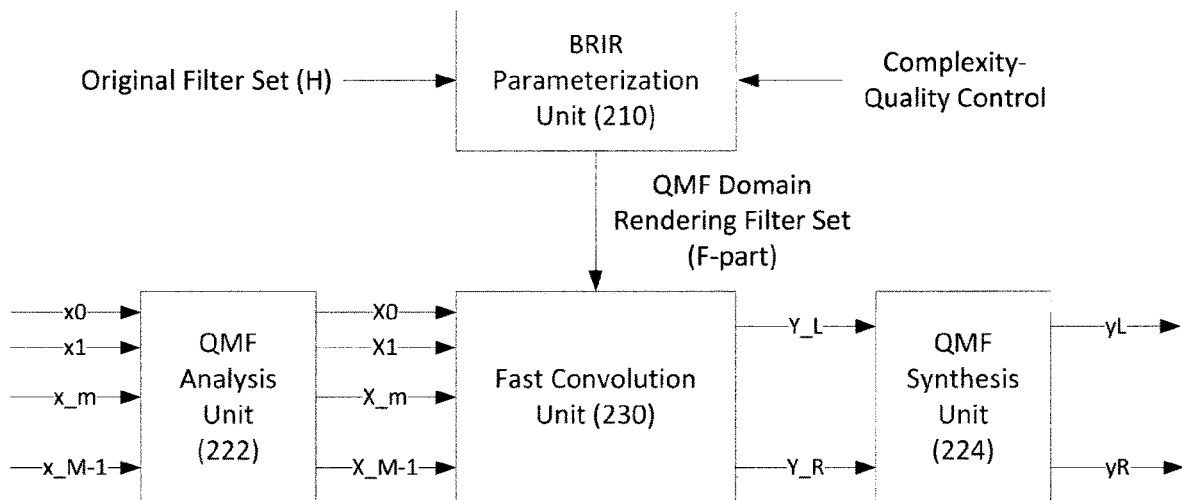
FIG. 3200A**FIG. 4**200B

FIG. 5

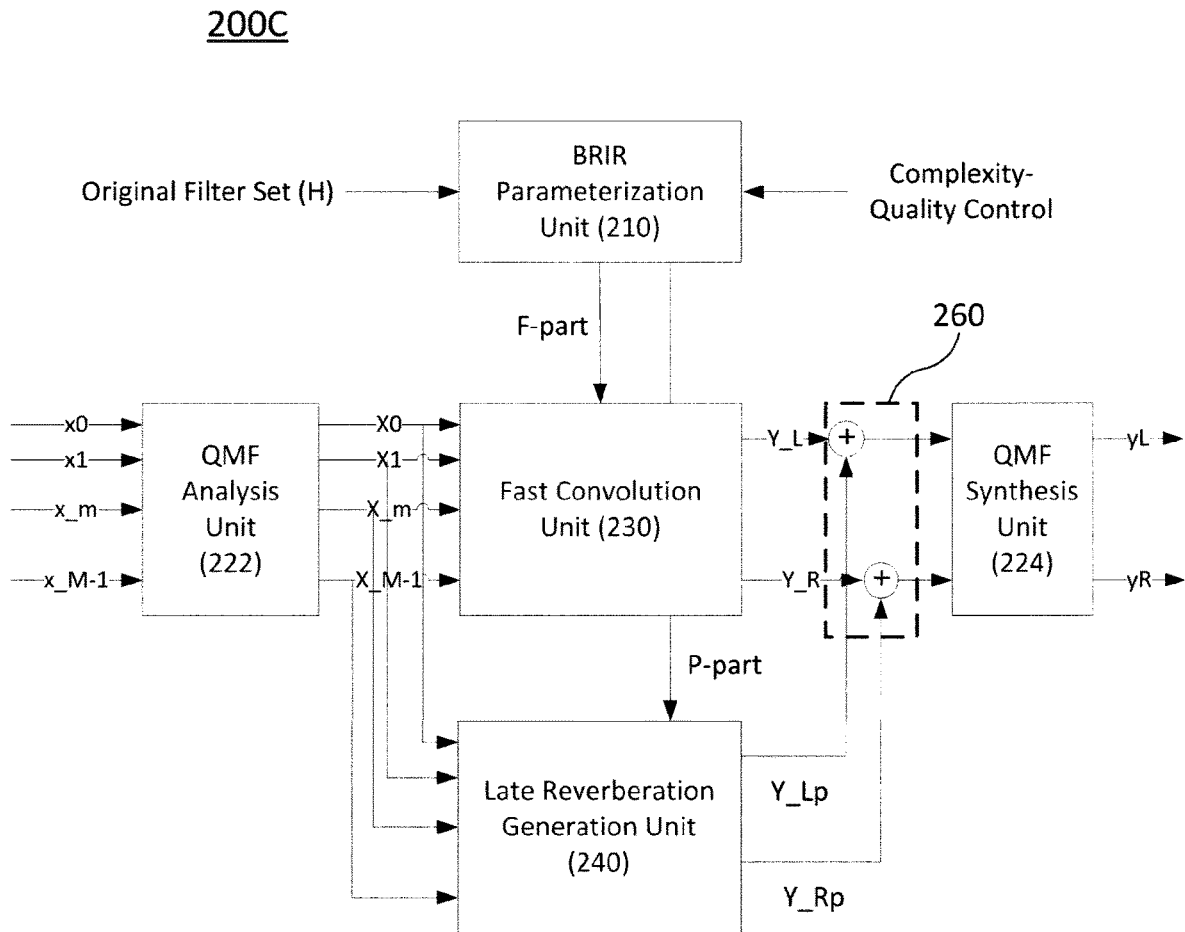


FIG. 6

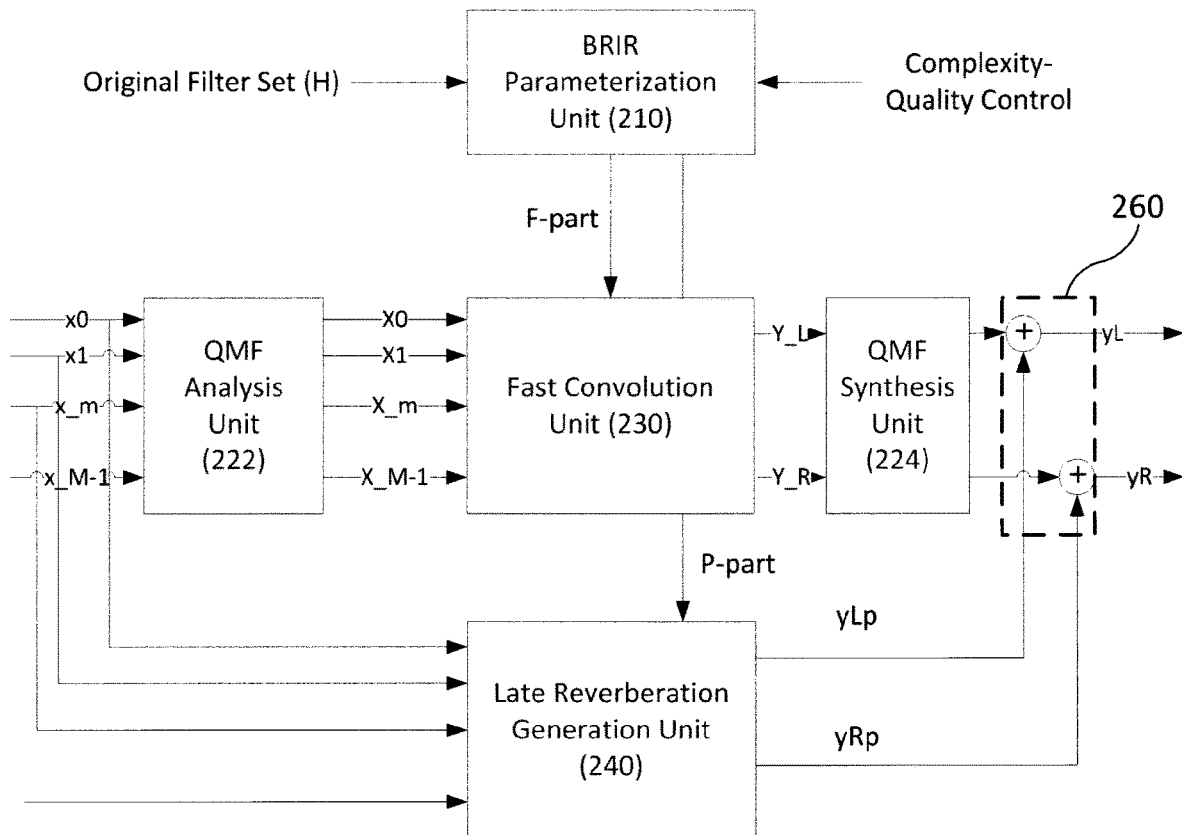
200D

FIG. 7

200E

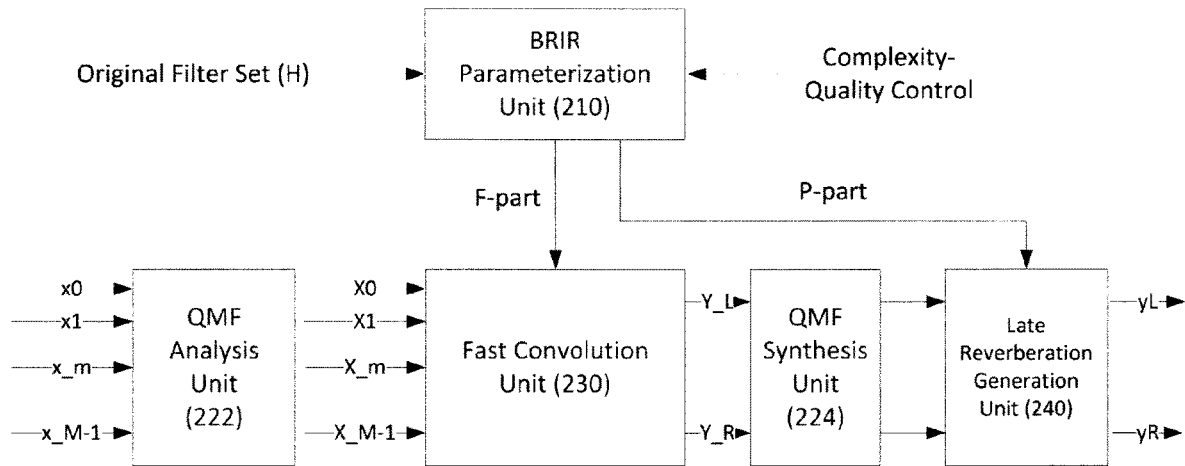


FIG. 8

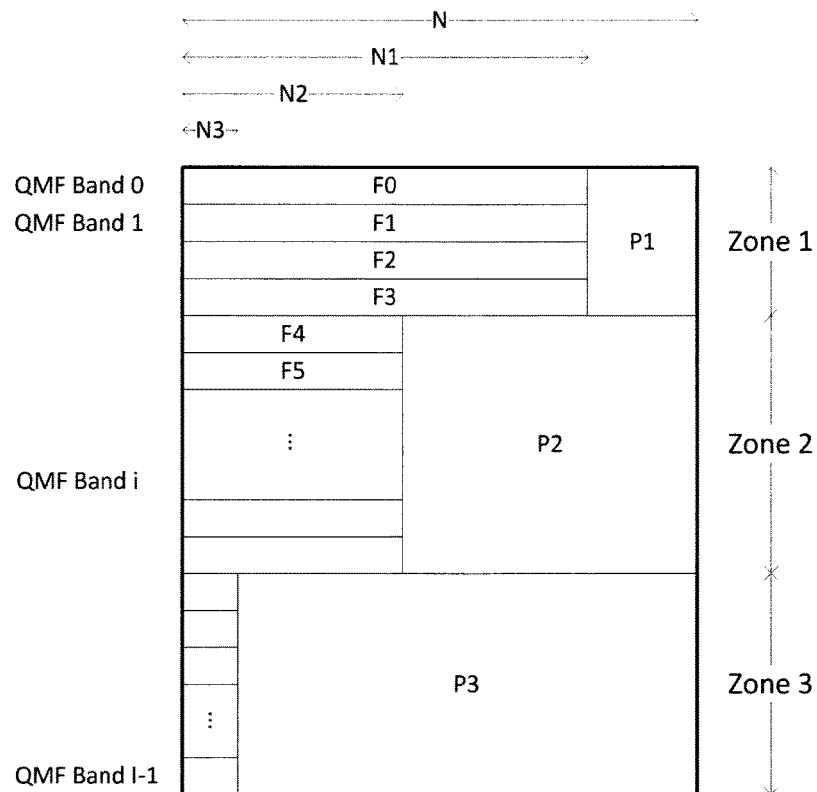


FIG. 9

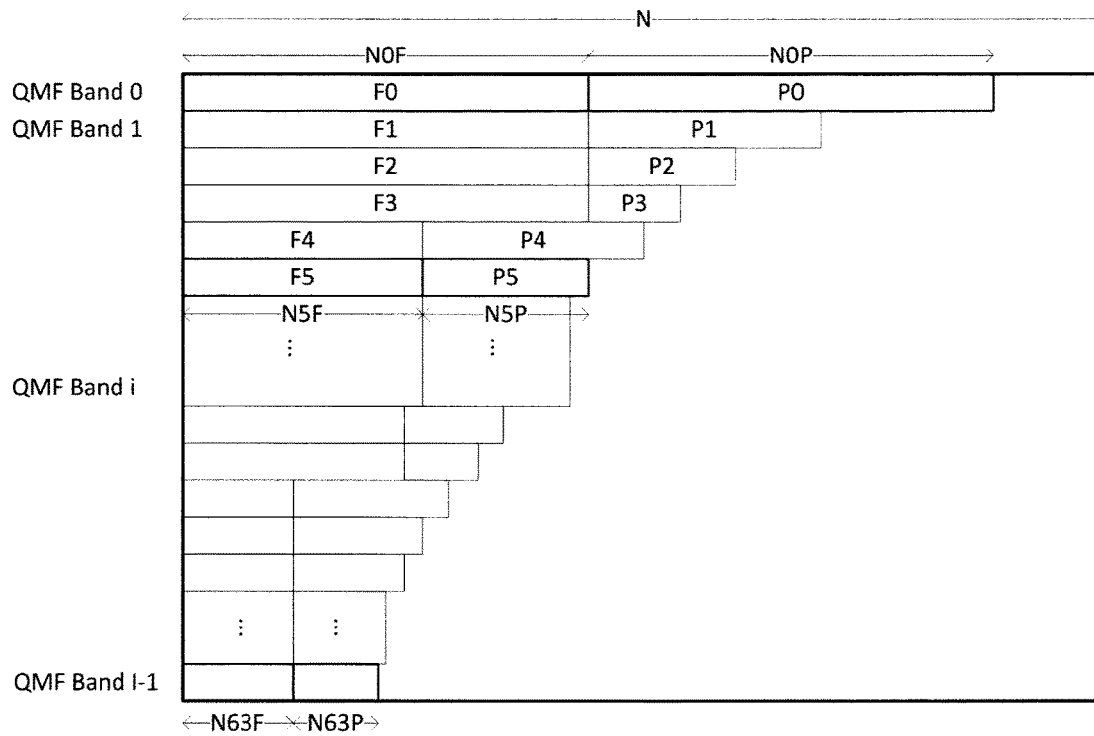


FIG. 10

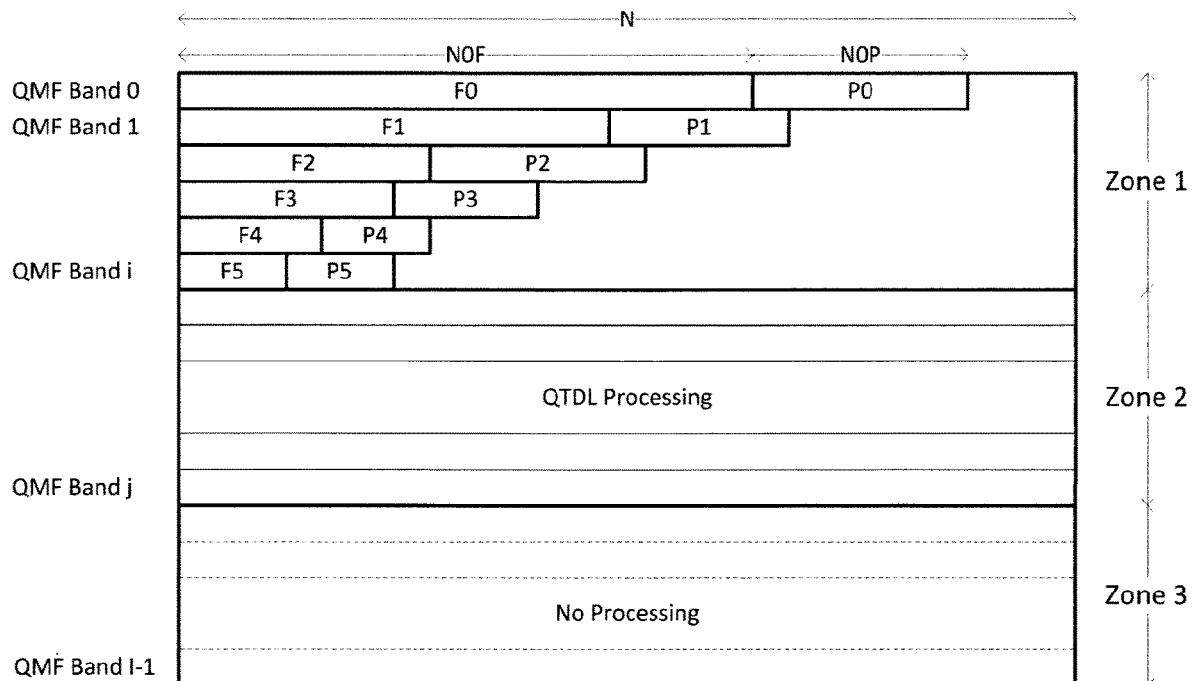


FIG. 11

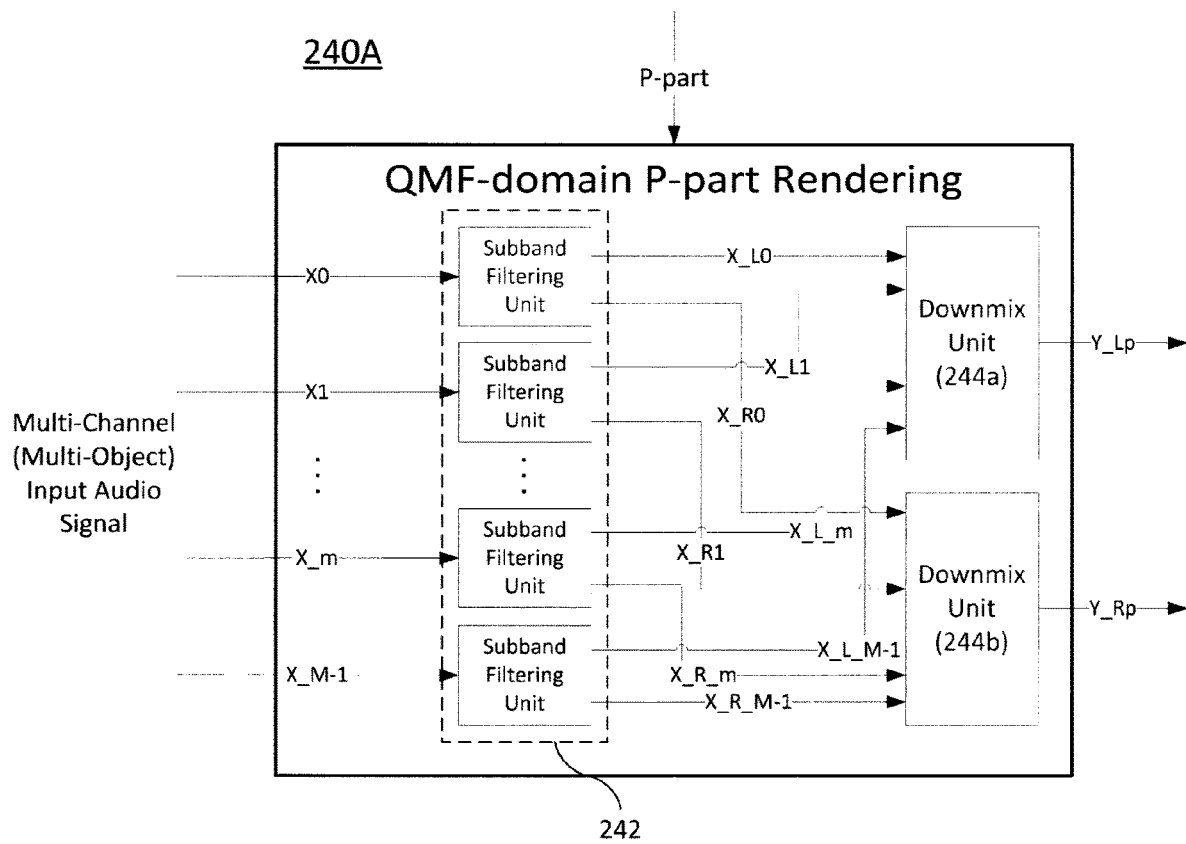


FIG. 12

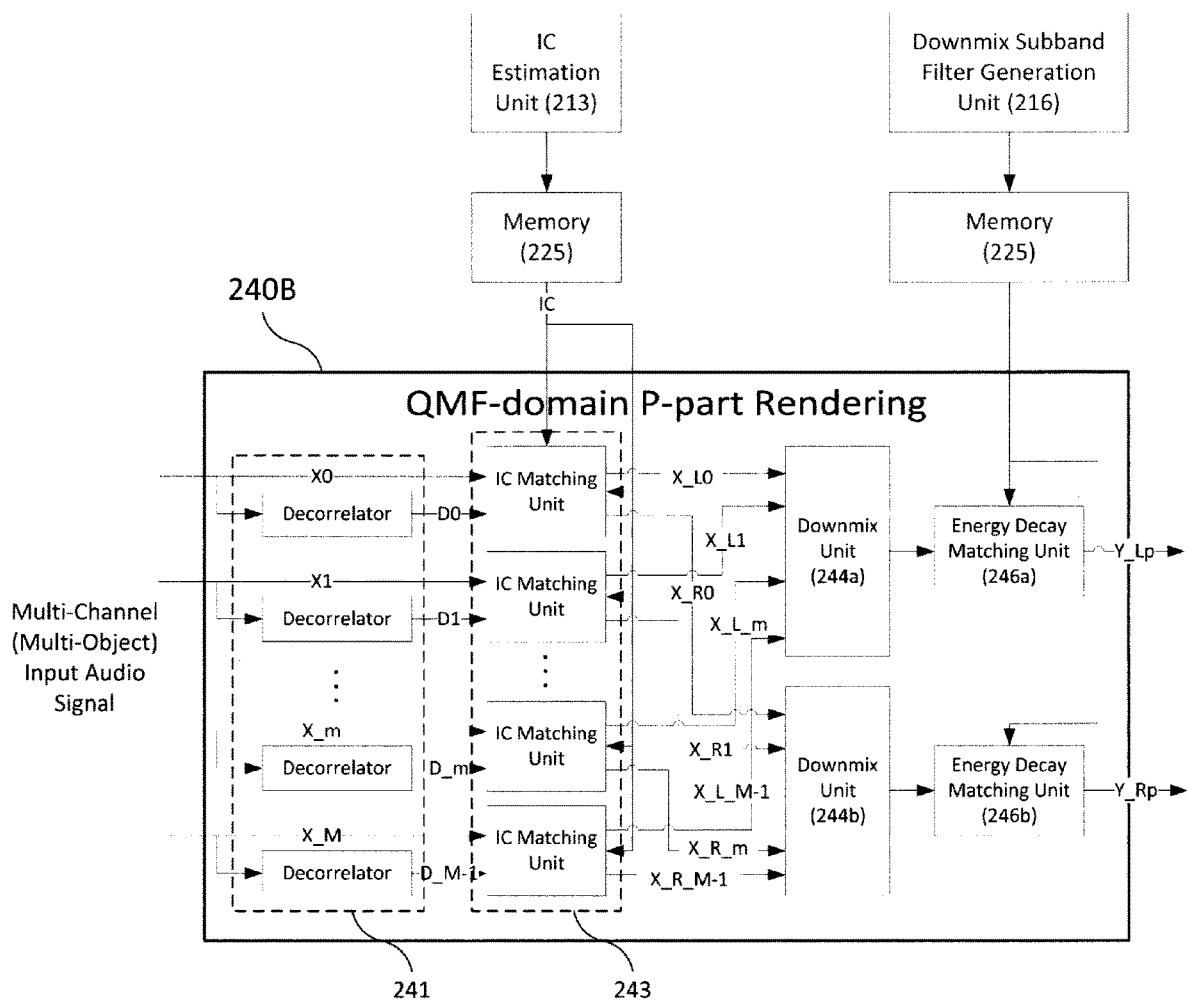


FIG. 13

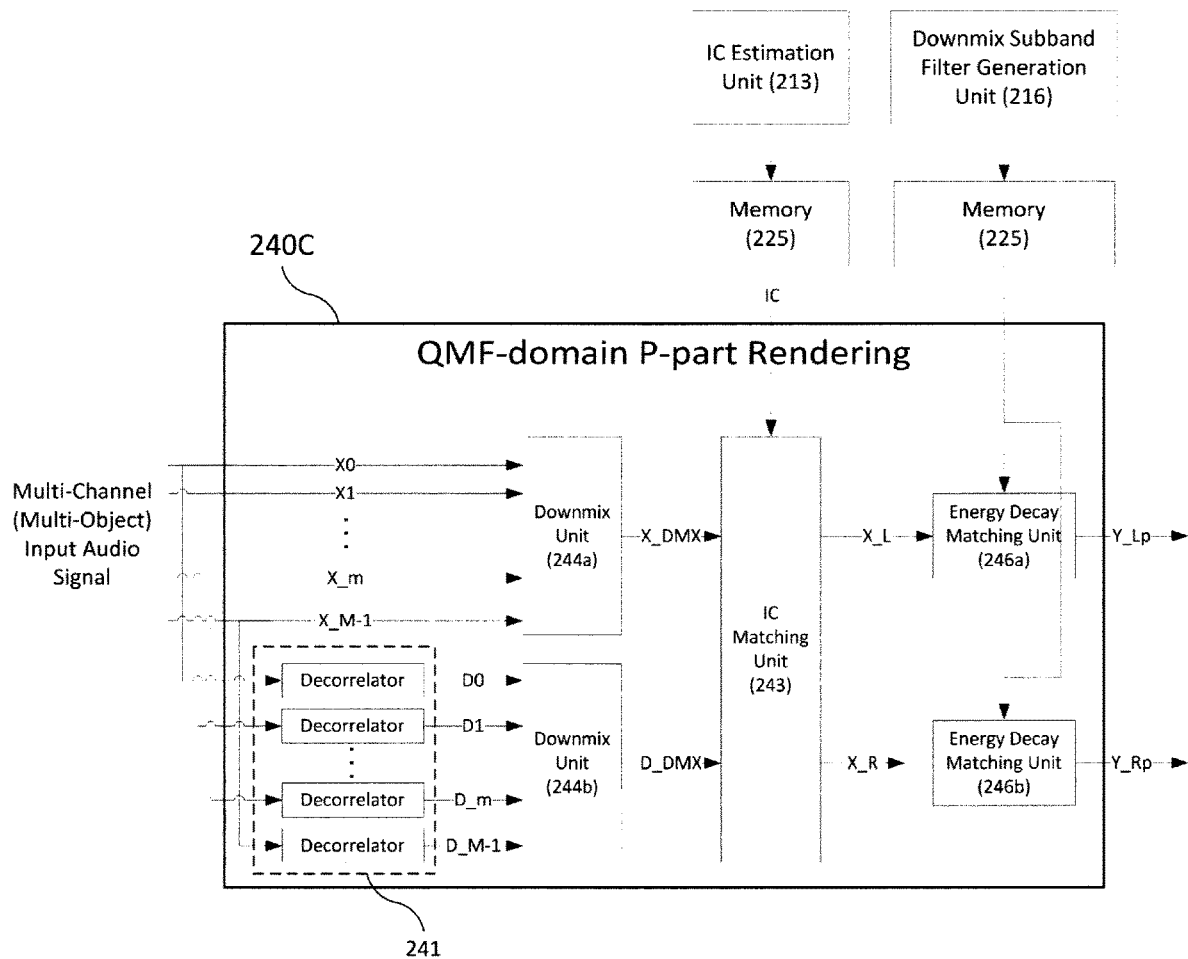


FIG. 14

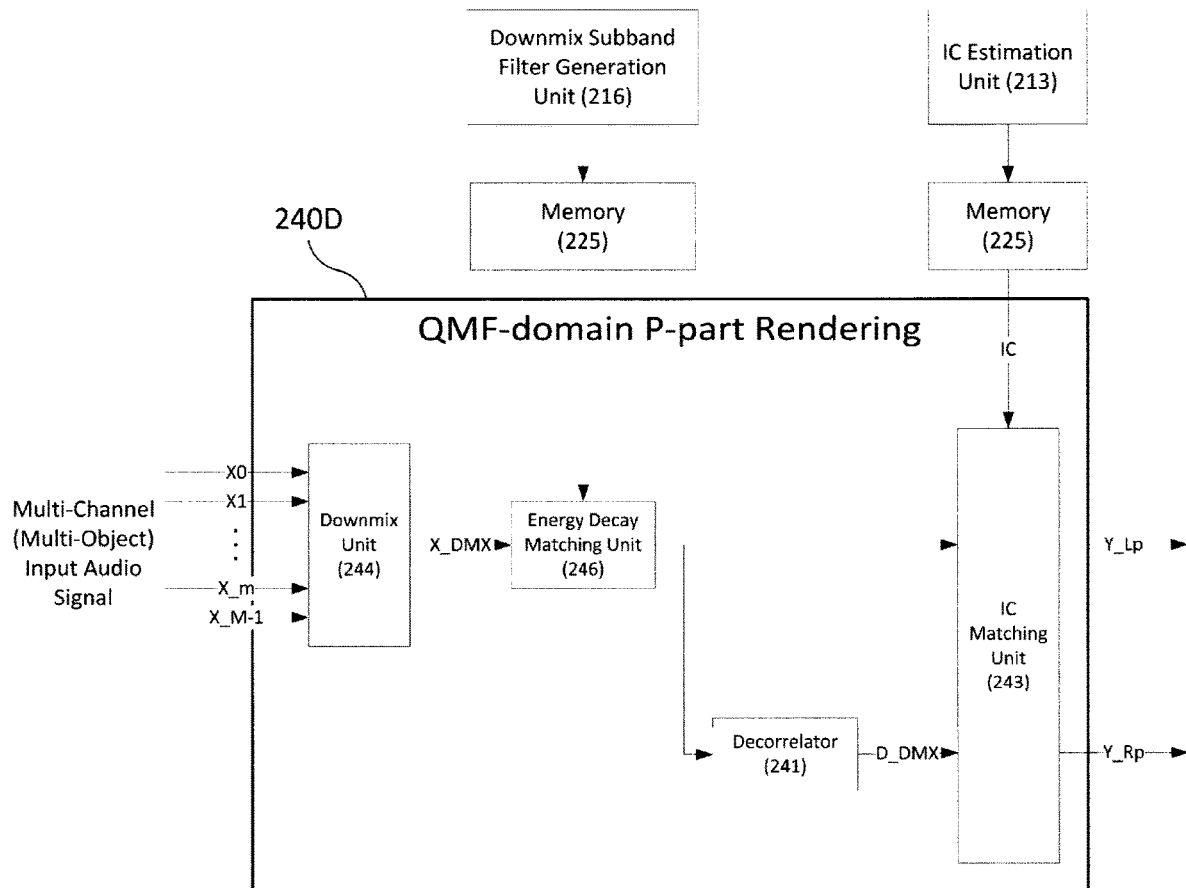


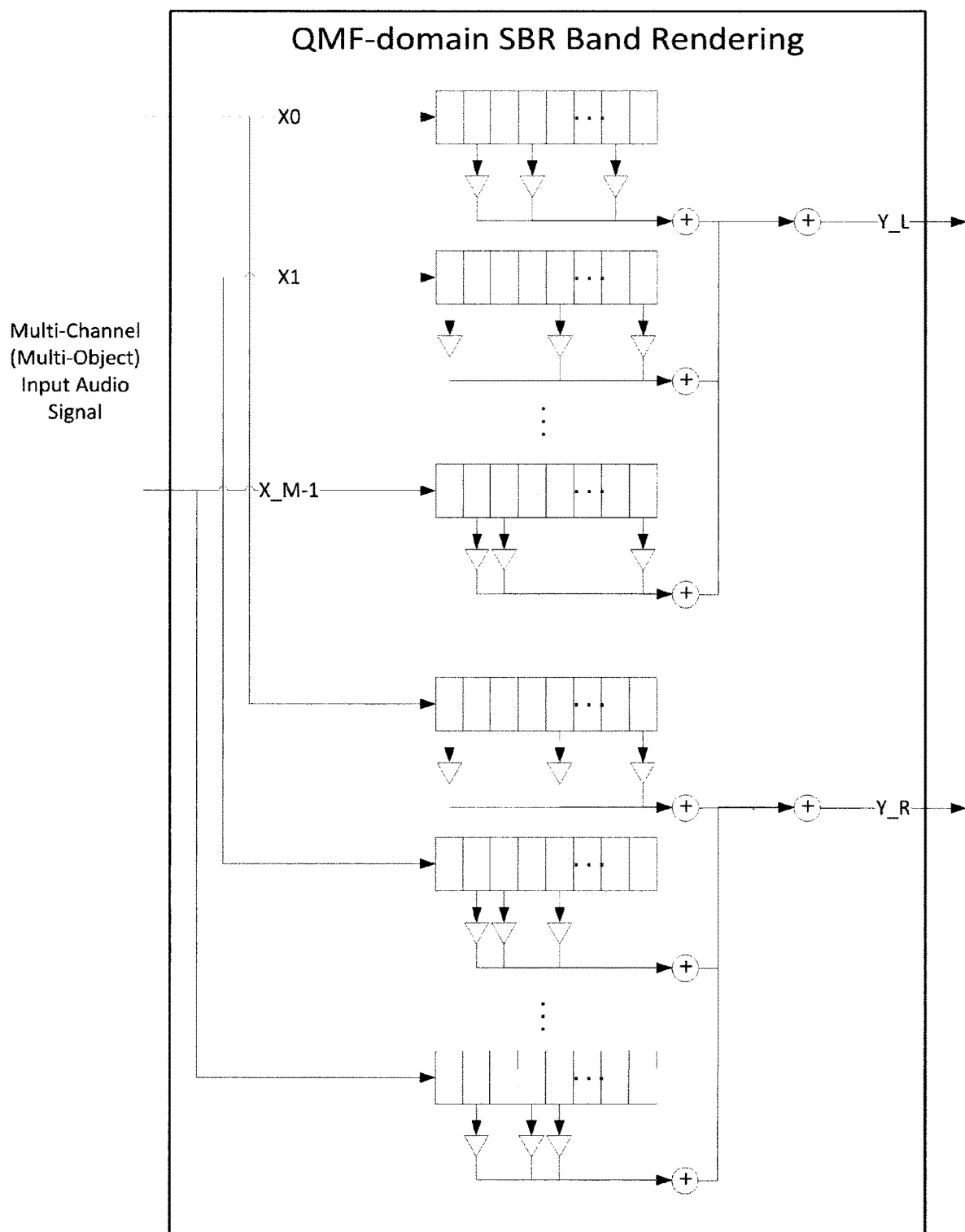
FIG. 15250A

FIG. 16

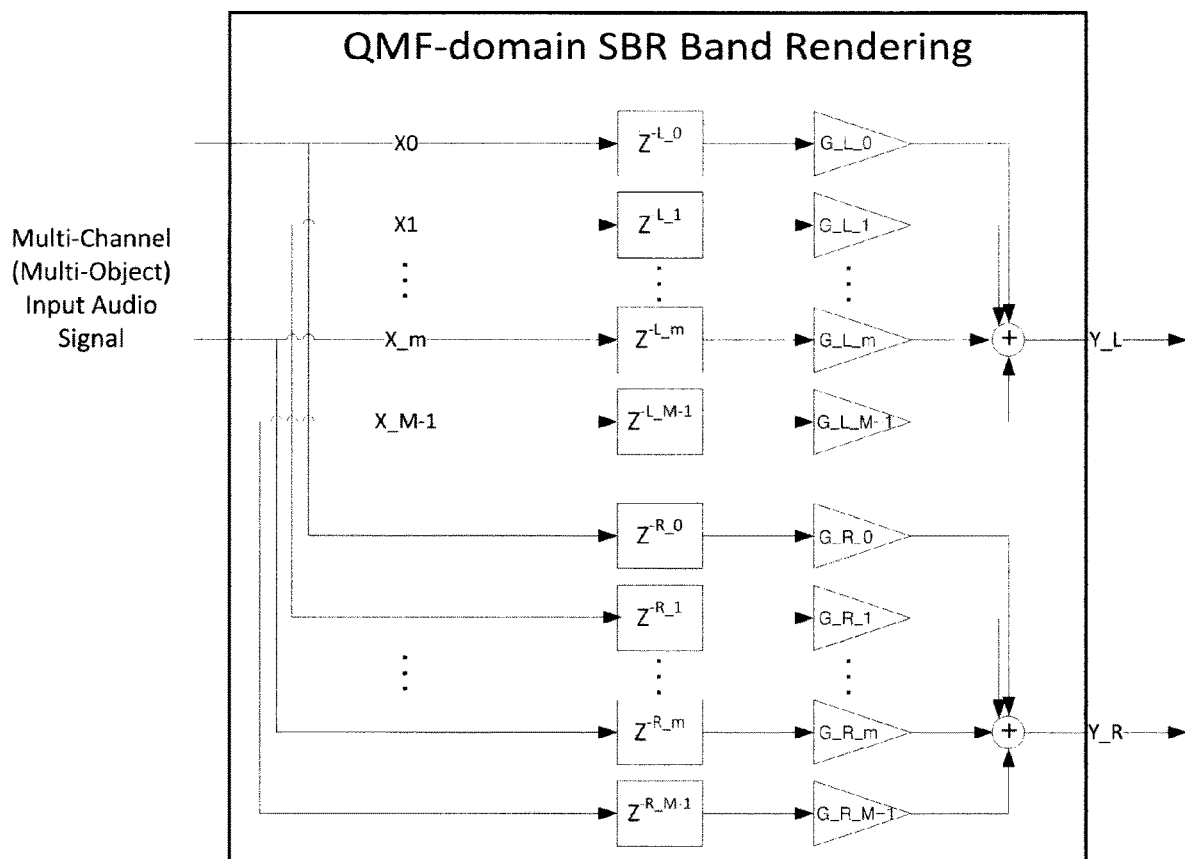
250B

FIG. 17

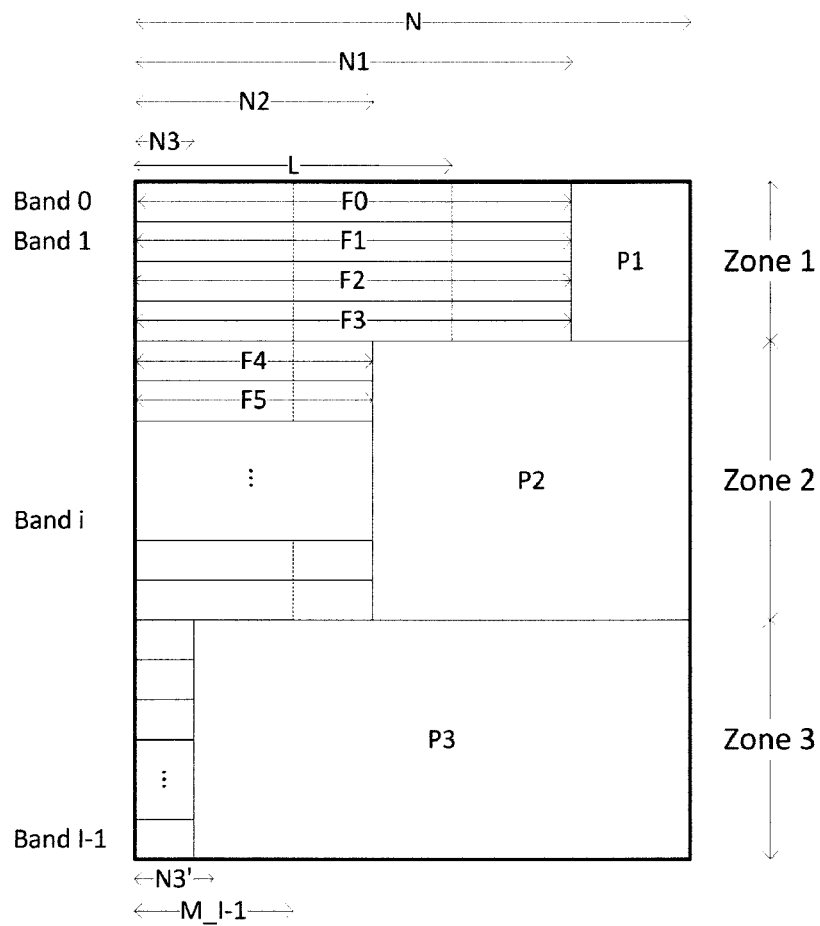


FIG. 18

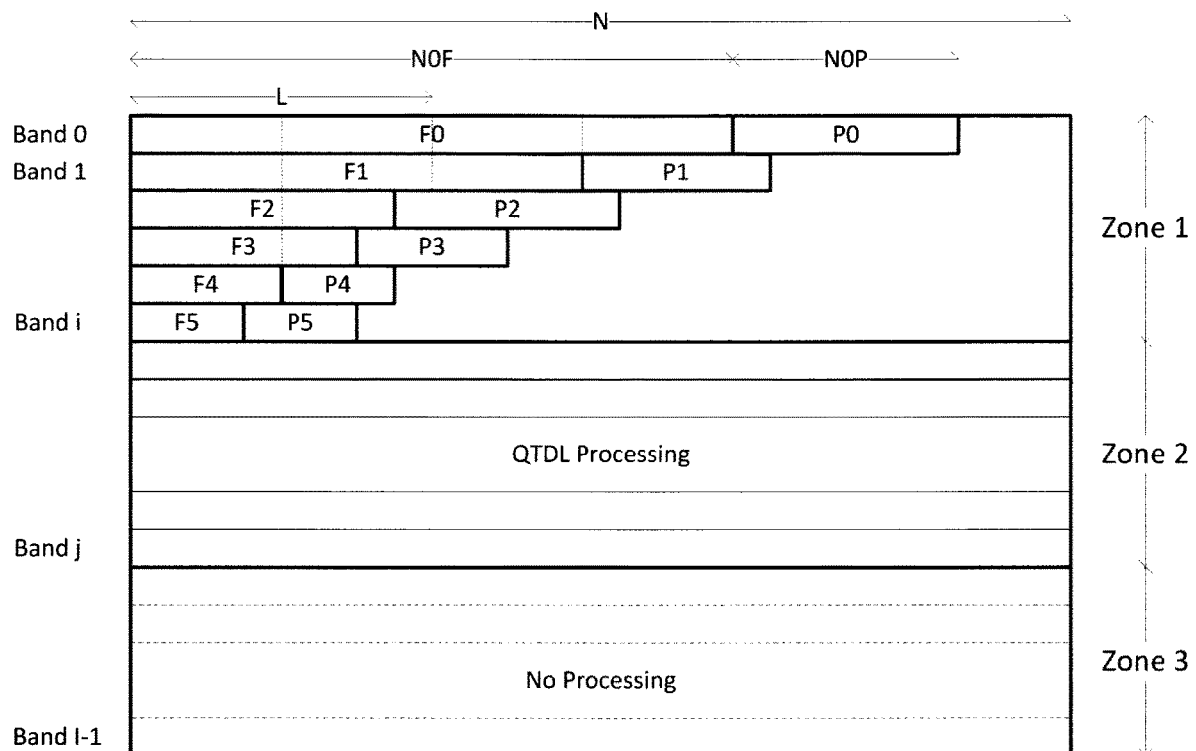
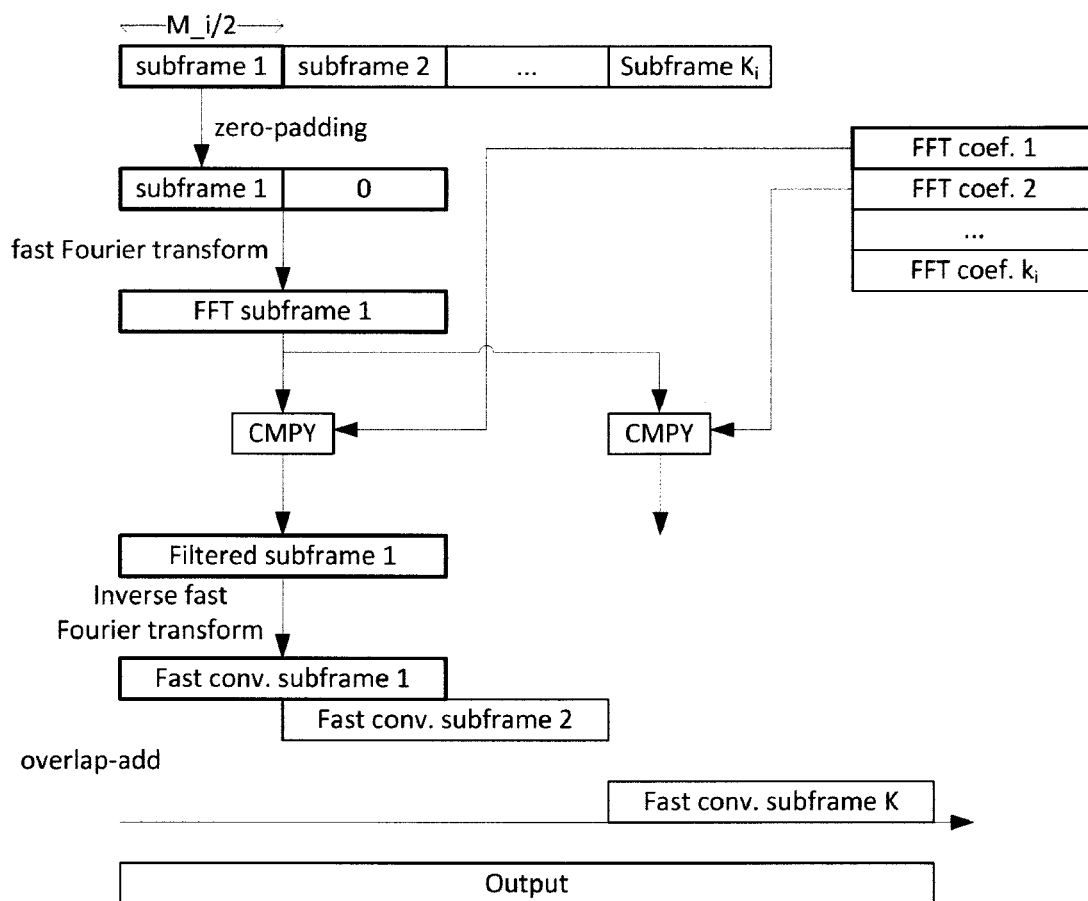


FIG. 19



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METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BINAURAL RENDERING AUDIO SIGNAL USING VARIABLE ORDER FILTERING IN FREQUENCY DOMAIN

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 15/031,275, filed on Apr. 22, 2016, which is the National Stage filing under 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/KR2014/009975, filed on Oct. 22, 2014, which claims the benefit of Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0125930, filed on Oct. 22, 2013, Korean Patent Application No. 10-2013-0125933, filed on Oct. 22, 2013, and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 61/973,868, filed on Apr. 2, 2014, the contents of which are all hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to a method and an apparatus for processing a signal, which are used to effectively reproduce an audio signal, and more particularly, to a method and an apparatus for processing an audio signal, which are used for implementing a filtering for input audio signals with a low computational complexity.

BACKGROUND ART

There is a problem in that binaural rendering for hearing multi-channel signals in stereo requires a high computational complexity as the length of a target filter increases. In particular, when a binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filter reflected with characteristics of a recording room is used, the length of the BRIR filter may reach 48,000 to 96,000 samples. Herein, when the number of input channels increases like a 22.2 channel format, the computational complexity is enormous.

When an input signal of an i-th channel is represented by $x_i(n)$, left and right BRIR filters of the corresponding channel are represented by $b_i^L(n)$ and $b_i^R(n)$, respectively, and output signals are represented by $y^L(n)$ and $y^R(n)$, binaural filtering can be expressed by an equation given below.

$$y^m(n) = \sum_i x_i(n) * b_i^m(n), \text{ where } m \in \{L, R\} \quad [\text{Equation 1}]$$

Herein, * represents a convolution. The above time-domain convolution is generally performed by using a fast convolution based on Fast Fourier transform (FFT). When the binaural rendering is performed by using the fast convolution, the FFT needs to be performed by the number of times corresponding to the number of input channels, and inverse FFT needs to be performed by the number of times corresponding to the number of output channels. Moreover, since a delay needs to be considered under a real-time reproduction environment like multi-channel audio codec, block-wise fast convolution needs to be performed, and more computational complexity may be consumed than a case in which the fast convolution is just performed with respect to a total length.

However, most coding schemes are achieved in a frequency domain, and in some coding schemes (e.g., HE-

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AAC, USAC, and the like), a last step of a decoding process is performed in a QMF domain. Accordingly, when the binaural filtering is performed in the time domain as shown in Equation 1 given above, an operation for QMF synthesis is additionally required as many as the number of channels, which is very inefficient. Therefore, it is advantageous that the binaural rendering is directly performed in the QMF domain.

DISCLOSURE

Technical Problem

The present invention has an object, with regard to reproduce multi-channel or multi-object signals in stereo, to implement filtering process, which requires a high computational complexity, of binaural rendering for reserving immersive perception of original signals with very low complexity while minimizing the loss of sound quality.

Furthermore, the present invention has an object to minimize the spread of distortion by using high-quality filter when a distortion is contained in the input signal.

Furthermore, the present invention has an object to implement finite impulse response (FIR) filter which has a long length with a filter which has a shorter length.

Furthermore, the present invention has an object to minimize distortions of portions destructed by discarded filter coefficients, when performing the filtering by using truncated FIR filter.

Technical Solution

In order to achieve the objects, the present invention provides a method and an apparatus for processing an audio signal as below.

First, an exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a method for processing an audio signal, including: receiving an input audio signal; receiving truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the input audio signal, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a portion of subband filter coefficients obtained from binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filter coefficients for binaural filtering of the input audio signal, the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients, and the truncated subband filter coefficients being constituted by at least one FFT filter coefficient in which fast Fourier transform (FFT) by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband has been performed; performing the fast Fourier transform of the subband signal based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generating a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the FFT filter coefficients; inverse fast Fourier transforming the filtered subframe; and generating a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides an apparatus for processing an audio signal, which is used for performing binaural rendering for input audio signals, each input audio signal including a plurality of subband signals, the apparatus including: a fast convolution unit performing rendering of a direct sound and early reflections sound parts for each subband signal, wherein the fast convolution unit receives an input audio signal; receives truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each sub-

band signal of the input audio signal, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a portion of subband filter coefficients obtained from binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filter coefficients for binaural filtering of the input audio signal, the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients, and the truncated subband filter coefficient being constituted by at least one FFT filter coefficient in which fast Fourier transform (FFT) by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband has been performed; performs the fast Fourier transform of the subband signal based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generates a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the FFT filter coefficient; inverse fast Fourier transforms the filtered subframe; and generates a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a method for processing an audio signal, including: receiving an input audio signal; receiving truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the input audio signal, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a portion of subband filter coefficients obtained from binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filter coefficients for binaural filtering of the input audio signal, and the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients; obtaining at least one FFT filter coefficient by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband; performing fast Fourier transform of the subband signal based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generating a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the FFT filter coefficients; inverse fast Fourier transforming the filtered subframe; and generating a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides an apparatus for processing an audio signal, which is used for performing binaural rendering for input audio signals, each input audio signal including a plurality of subband signals, the apparatus including: a fast convolution unit performing rendering of a direct sound and an early reflection sound parts for each subband signal, wherein the fast convolution unit receives an input audio signal; receives truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the input audio signal, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a part of subband filter coefficients obtained from binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filter coefficients for binaural filtering of the input audio signal, and the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients; obtains at least one FFT filter coefficient by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband; performs the fast Fourier transform of the subband signal based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generates a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the

FFT filter coefficients; inverse fast Fourier transforms the filtered subframe; and generates a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

In this case, the characteristic information may include reverberation time information of the corresponding subband filter coefficients, and the filter order information may have a single value for each subband.

Further, the length of at least one truncated subband filter coefficients may be different from that of the truncated subband filter coefficients of another subband.

The length of the predetermined block and a length of the predetermined subframe may have a power of 2 value.

The length of the predetermined subframe may be determined based on the length of the predetermined block in the corresponding subband.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the performing of the fast Fourier transform may include partitioning the subband signal into the predetermined subframe size; generating a temporary subframe including a first half part constituted by the partitioned subframe and a second half part constituted by zero-padded values; and fast Fourier transforming the generated temporary subframe.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a method for generating a filter of an audio signal, including: receiving at least one proto-type filter coefficient for filtering each subband signal of an input audio signal; converting the proto-type filter coefficient into a plurality of subband filter coefficients; truncating each of the subband filter coefficients based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients, the length of at least one truncated subband filter coefficients being different from the length of truncated subband filter coefficients of another subband; and generating FFT filter coefficients by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a parameterization unit for generating a filter of an audio signal, in which the parameterization unit receives at least one proto-type filter coefficient for filtering each subband signal of an input audio signal; converts the proto-type filter coefficient into a plurality of subband filter coefficients; truncates each of the subband filter coefficients based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients, the length of at least one truncated subband filter coefficients is different from the length of a truncated subband filter coefficients of another subband; and generates FFT filter coefficients by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband.

In this case, the characteristic information may include reverberation time information of the corresponding subband filter coefficients, and the filter order information may have a single value for each subband.

Further, the length of the predetermined block may be determined as a smaller value between a value twice the reference filter length of the truncated subband filter coefficients and the predetermined maximum FFT size, and the reference filter length may represent any one of a true value and an approximate value of the filter order in a form of power of 2.

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When the reference filter length is N and the length of the predetermined block corresponding thereto is M , the M may be a power of 2 value and $2N=kM$ (k is a natural number).

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the generating of the FFT filter coefficients may include partitioning the truncated subband filter coefficients by a half of a predetermined block size; generating a temporary filter coefficients of the predetermined block size by using the partitioned filter coefficients, a first half part of the temporary filter coefficients being constituted by the partitioned filter coefficients and a second half part of the temporary filter coefficients being constituted by zero-padded values; and fast Fourier transforming the generated temporary filter coefficients.

Further, the proto-type filter coefficient may be a BRIR filter coefficient of a time domain.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a method for processing an audio signal, including: receiving input audio signals, each input audio signal including a plurality of subband signals and the plurality of subband signals including signals of a first subband group having low frequencies and signals of a second subband group having high frequencies based on a predetermined frequency band; receiving truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the first subband group, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a portion of subband filter coefficients obtained from proto-type filter coefficients for filtering the input audio signal, and the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients; obtaining at least one FFT filter coefficient by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband; performing a fast Fourier transform of the subband signal of the first subband group based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generating a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the FFT filter coefficients; inverse fast Fourier transforming the filtered subframe; and generating a filtered subband signal of the first subband group by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

Another exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides an apparatus for processing an audio signal, which is used for performing filtering for input audio signals, each input audio signal including a plurality of subband signals, and the plurality of subband signals including signals of a first subband group having low frequencies and signals of a second subband group having high frequencies based on a predetermined frequency band, the apparatus including: a fast convolution unit performing filtering of each subband signal of the first subband group; and a tap-delay line processing unit performing filtering of each subband signal of the second subband group, wherein the fast convolution unit receives the input audio signal; receives truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal of the first subband group, the truncated subband filter coefficients being at least a portion of subband filter coefficients obtained from proto-type filter coefficients for filtering the input audio signal, and the lengths of the truncated subband filter coefficients being determined based on filter order information obtained by at least partially using characteristic information extracted from the corresponding subband filter coefficients; obtains at least one FFT filter coefficient by fast Fourier transforming (FFT) the truncated

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subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband; performs a fast Fourier transform of the subband signal of the first subband group based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband; generates a filtered subframe by multiplying the fast Fourier transformed subframe and the FFT filter coefficients; inverse fast Fourier transforms the filtered subframe; and generates a filtered subband signal of the first subband group by overlap-adding at least one subframe which is inverse fast Fourier transformed.

In this case, the method for processing an audio signal may further include: receiving at least one parameter corresponding to each subband signal of the second subband group, the at least one parameter being extracted from the subband filter coefficients corresponding to each subband signal; and performing tap-delay line filtering of the subband signal of the second subband group by using the received parameter.

Further, the tap-delay line processing unit may receive at least one parameter corresponding to each subband signal of the second subband group and the at least one parameter may be extracted from the subband filter coefficients corresponding to the each subband signal and the tap-delay line processing unit may perform tap-delay line filtering of the subband signal of the second subband group by using the received parameter.

In this case, the tap-delay line filtering may be one-tap-delay line filtering using the parameter.

Advantageous Effects

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, when binaural rendering for multi-channel or multi-object signals is performed, it is possible to remarkably decrease a computational complexity while minimizing the loss of sound quality.

According to the exemplary embodiments of the present invention, it is possible to achieve binaural rendering of high sound quality for multi-channel or multi-object audio signals of which real-time processing has been unavailable in the existing low-power device.

The present invention provides a method of efficiently performing filtering for various forms of multimedia signals including input audio signals with a low computational complexity

DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an audio signal decoder according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating each component of a binaural renderer according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

FIGS. 3 to 7 are diagrams illustrating various exemplary embodiments of an apparatus for processing an audio signal according to the present invention.

FIGS. 8 to 10 are diagrams illustrating methods for generating an FIR filter for binaural rendering according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

FIGS. 11 to 14 are diagrams illustrating various exemplary embodiments of a P-part rendering unit of the present invention.

FIGS. 15 and 16 are diagrams illustrating various exemplary embodiments of QTDL processing of the present invention.

FIGS. 17 and 18 are diagrams illustrating exemplary embodiments of the audio signal processing method using the block-wise fast convolution.

FIG. 19 is a diagram illustrating an exemplary embodiment of an audio signal processing procedure in a fast convolution unit of the present invention.

BEST MODE

As terms used in the specification, general terms which are currently widely used as possible by considering functions in the present invention are selected, but they may be changed depending on intentions of those skilled in the art, customs, or the appearance of a new technology. Further, in a specific case, terms arbitrarily selected by an applicant may be used and in this case, meanings thereof are described in the corresponding description part of the present invention. Therefore, it will be disclosed that the terms used in the specifications should be analyzed based on not just names of the terms but substantial meanings of the terms and contents throughout the specification.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram illustrating an audio signal decoder according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. The audio signal decoder according to the present invention includes a core decoder 10, a rendering unit 20, a mixer 30, and a post-processing unit 40.

First, the core decoder 10 decodes loudspeaker channel signals, discrete object signals, object downmix signals, and pre-rendered signals. According to an exemplary embodiment, in the core decoder 10, a codec based on unified speech and audio coding (USAC) may be used. The core decoder 10 decodes a received bitstream and transfers the decoded bitstream to the rendering unit 20.

The rendering unit 20 performs rendering signals decoded by the core decoder 10 by using reproduction layout information. The rendering unit 20 may include a format converter 22, an object renderer 24, an OAM decoder 25, an SAOC decoder 26, and an HOA decoder 28. The rendering unit 20 performs rendering by using any one of the above components according to the type of decoded signal.

The format converter 22 converts transmitted channel signals into output speaker channel signals. That is, the format converter 22 performs conversion between a transmitted channel configuration and a speaker channel configuration to be reproduced. When the number (for example, 5.1 channels) of output speaker channels is smaller than the number (for example, 22.2 channels) of transmitted channels or the transmitted channel configuration is different from the channel configuration to be reproduced, the format converter 22 performs downmix of transmitted channel signals. The audio signal decoder of the present invention may generate an optimal downmix matrix by using a combination of the input channel signals and the output speaker channel signals and perform the downmix by using the matrix. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the channel signals processed by the format converter 22 may include pre-rendered object signals. According to an exemplary embodiment, at least one object signal is pre-rendered before encoding the audio signal to be mixed with the channel signals. The mixed object signal as described above may be converted into the output speaker channel signal by the format converter 22 together with the channel signals.

The object renderer 24 and the SAOC decoder 26 perform rendering for an object based audio signals. The object based audio signal may include a discrete object waveform and a parametric object waveform. In the case of the discrete object waveform, each of the object signals is provided to an

encoder in a monophonic waveform, and the encoder transmits each of the object signals by using single channel elements (SCEs). In the case of the parametric object waveform, a plurality of object signals is downmixed to at least one channel signal, and a feature of each object and the relationship among the objects are expressed as a spatial audio object coding (SAOC) parameter. The object signals are downmixed to be encoded to core codec and parametric information generated at this time is transmitted to a decoder together.

Meanwhile, when the discrete object waveform or the parametric object waveform is transmitted to an audio signal decoder, compressed object metadata corresponding thereto may be transmitted together. The object metadata quantizes an object attribute by the units of a time and a space to designate a position and a gain value of each object in 3D space. The OAM decoder 25 of the rendering unit 20 receives the compressed object metadata and decodes the received object metadata, and transfers the decoded object metadata to the object renderer 24 and/or the SAOC decoder 26.

The object renderer 24 performs rendering each object signal according to a given reproduction format by using the object metadata. In this case, each object signal may be rendered to specific output channels based on the object metadata. The SAOC decoder 26 restores the object/channel signal from decoded SAOC transmission channels and parametric information. The SAOC decoder 26 may generate an output audio signal based on the reproduction layout information and the object metadata. As such, the object renderer 24 and the SAOC decoder 26 may render the object signal to the channel signal.

The HOA decoder 28 receives Higher Order Ambisonics (HOA) coefficient signals and HOA additional information and decodes the received HOA coefficient signals and HOA additional information. The HOA decoder 28 models the channel signals or the object signals by a separate equation to generate a sound scene. When a spatial location of a speaker in the generated sound scene is selected, rendering to the loudspeaker channel signals may be performed.

Meanwhile, although not illustrated in FIG. 1, when the audio signal is transferred to each component of the rendering unit 20, dynamic range control (DRC) may be performed as a preprocessing process. The DRC limits a dynamic range of the reproduced audio signal to a predetermined level and adjusts a sound, which is smaller than a predetermined threshold, to be larger and a sound, which is larger than the predetermined threshold, to be smaller.

A channel based audio signal and the object based audio signal, which are processed by the rendering unit 20, are transferred to the mixer 30. The mixer 30 adjusts delays of a channel based waveform and a rendered object waveform, and sums up the adjusted waveforms by the unit of a sample. Audio signals summed up by the mixer 30 are transferred to the post-processing unit 40.

The post-processing unit 40 includes a speaker renderer 100 and a binaural renderer 200. The speaker renderer 100 performs post-processing for outputting the multi-channel and/or multi-object audio signals transferred from the mixer 30. The post-processing may include the dynamic range control (DRC), loudness normalization (LN), a peak limiter (PL), and the like.

The binaural renderer 200 generates a binaural downmix signal of the multi-channel and/or multi-object audio signals. The binaural downmix signal is a 2-channel audio signal that allows each input channel/object signal to be expressed by a virtual sound source positioned in 3D. The

binaural renderer **200** may receive the audio signal provided to the speaker renderer **100** as an input signal. Binaural rendering may be performed based on binaural room impulse response (BRIR) filters and performed in a time domain or a QMF domain. According to an exemplary embodiment, as a post-processing process of the binaural rendering, the dynamic range control (DRC), the loudness normalization (LN), the peak limiter (PL), and the like may be additionally performed.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustrating each component of a binaural renderer according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the binaural renderer **200** according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention may include a BRIR parameterization unit **210**, a fast convolution unit **230**, a late reverberation generation unit **240**, a QTDL processing unit **250**, and a mixer & combiner **260**.

The binaural renderer **200** generates a 3D audio headphone signal (that is, a 3D audio 2-channel signal) by performing binaural rendering of various types of input signals. In this case, the input signal may be an audio signal including at least one of the channel signals (that is, the loudspeaker channel signals), the object signals, and the HOA coefficient signals. According to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, when the binaural renderer **200** includes a particular decoder, the input signal may be an encoded bitstream of the aforementioned audio signal. The binaural rendering converts the decoded input signal into the binaural downmix signal to make it possible to experience a surround sound at the time of hearing the corresponding binaural downmix signal through a headphone.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the binaural renderer **200** may perform the binaural rendering of the input signal in the QMF domain. That is to say, the binaural renderer **200** may receive signals of multi-channels (N channels) of the QMF domain and perform the binaural rendering for the signals of the multi-channels by using a BRIR subband filter of the QMF domain. When a k-th subband signal of an i-th channel, which passed through a QMF analysis filter bank, is represented by $x_{k,i}(l)$ and a time index in a subband domain is represented by l, the binaural rendering in the QMF domain may be expressed by an equation given below.

$$y_k^m(l) = \sum_i x_{k,i}(l) * b_{k,i}^m(l) \quad [\text{Equation 2}]$$

Herein, $m \in \{L, R\}$ and $b_{k,i}^m(l)$ is obtained by converting the time domain BRIR filter into the subband filter of the QMF domain.

That is, the binaural rendering may be performed by a method that divides the channel signals or the object signals of the QMF domain into a plurality of subband signals and convolutes the respective subband signals with BRIR subband filters corresponding thereto, and thereafter, sums up the respective subband signals convoluted with the BRIR subband filters.

The BRIR parameterization unit **210** converts and edits BRIR filter coefficients for the binaural rendering in the QMF domain and generates various parameters. First, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** receives time domain BRIR filter coefficients for multi-channels or multi-objects, and converts the received time domain BRIR filter coefficients into QMF domain BRIR filter coefficients. In this case, the

QMF domain BRIR filter coefficients include a plurality of subband filter coefficients corresponding to a plurality of frequency bands, respectively. In the present invention, the subband filter coefficients indicate each BRIR filter coefficients of a QMF-converted subband domain. In the specification, the subband filter coefficients may be designated as the BRIR subband filter coefficients. The BRIR parameterization unit **210** may edit each of the plurality of BRIR subband filter coefficients of the QMF domain and transfer the edited subband filter coefficients to the fast convolution unit **230**, and the like. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may be included as a component of the binaural renderer **200** and, otherwise provided as a separate apparatus. According to an exemplary embodiment, a component including the fast convolution unit **230**, the late reverberation generation unit **240**, the QTDL processing unit **250**, and the mixer & combiner **260**, except for the BRIR parameterization unit **210**, may be classified into a binaural rendering unit **220**.

According to an exemplary embodiment, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may receive BRIR filter coefficients corresponding to at least one location of a virtual reproduction space as an input. Each location of the virtual reproduction space may correspond to each speaker location of a multi-channel system. According to an exemplary embodiment, each of the BRIR filter coefficients received by the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may directly match each channel or each object of the input signal of the binaural renderer **200**. On the contrary, according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, each of the received BRIR filter coefficients may have an independent configuration from the input signal of the binaural renderer **200**. That is, at least a part of the BRIR filter coefficients received by the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may not directly match the input signal of the binaural renderer **200**, and the number of received BRIR filter coefficients may be smaller or larger than the total number of channels and/or objects of the input signal.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** converts and edits the BRIR filter coefficients corresponding to each channel or each object of the input signal of the binaural renderer **200** to transfer the converted and edited BRIR filter coefficients to the binaural rendering unit **220**. The corresponding BRIR filter coefficients may be a matching BRIR or a fallback BRIR for each channel or each object. The BRIR matching may be determined whether BRIR filter coefficients targeting the location of each channel or each object are present in the virtual reproduction space. In this case, positional information of each channel (or object) may be obtained from an input parameter which signals the channel configuration. When the BRIR filter coefficients targeting at least one of the locations of the respective channels or the respective objects of the input signal are present, the BRIR filter coefficients may be the matching BRIR of the input signal. However, when the BRIR filter coefficients targeting the location of a specific channel or object is not present, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may provide BRIR filter coefficients, which target a location most similar to the corresponding channel or object, as the fallback BRIR for the corresponding channel or object.

First, when there are BRIR filter coefficients having altitude and azimuth deviations within a predetermined range from a desired position (a specific channel or object), the corresponding BRIR filter coefficients may be selected. In other words, BRIR filter coefficients having the same

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altitude as and an azimuth deviation within ± 20 from the desired position may be selected. When there is no corresponding BRIR filter coefficient, BRIR filter coefficients having a minimum geometric distance from the desired position in a BRIR filter coefficients set may be selected. That is, BRIR filter coefficients to minimize a geometric distance between the position of the corresponding BRIR and the desired position may be selected. Herein, the position of the BRIR represents a position of the speaker corresponding to the relevant BRIR filter coefficients. Further, the geometric distance between both positions may be defined as a value acquired by summing up an absolute value of an altitude deviation and an absolute value of an azimuth deviation of both positions.

Meanwhile, according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** converts and edits all of the received BRIR filter coefficients to transfer the converted and edited BRIR filter coefficients to the binaural rendering unit **220**. In this case, a selection procedure of the BRIR filter coefficients (alternatively, the edited BRIR filter coefficients) corresponding to each channel or each object of the input signal may be performed by the binaural rendering unit **220**.

The binaural rendering unit **220** includes a fast convolution unit **230**, a late reverberation generation unit **240**, and a QTDL processing unit **250** and receives multi-audio signals including multi-channel and/or multi-object signals. In the specification, the input signal including the multi-channel and/or multi-object signals will be referred to as the multi-audio signals. FIG. 2 illustrates that the binaural rendering unit **220** receives the multi-channel signals of the QMF domain according to an exemplary embodiment, but the input signal of the binaural rendering unit **220** may further include time domain multi-channel signals and time domain multi-object signals. Further, when the binaural rendering unit **220** additionally includes a particular decoder, the input signal may be an encoded bitstream of the multi-audio signals. Moreover, in the specification, the present invention is described based on a case of performing BRIR rendering of the multi-audio signals, but the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, features provided by the present invention may be applied to not only the BRIR but also other types of rendering filters and applied to not only the multi-audio signals but also an audio signal of a single channel or single object.

The fast convolution unit **230** performs a fast convolution between the input signal and the BRIR filter to process direct sound and early reflections sound for the input signal. To this end, the fast convolution unit **230** may perform the fast convolution by using a truncated BRIR. The truncated BRIR includes a plurality of subband filter coefficients truncated dependently on each subband frequency and is generated by the BRIR parameterization unit **210**. In this case, the length of each of the truncated subband filter coefficients is determined dependently on a frequency of the corresponding subband. The fast convolution unit **230** may perform variable order filtering in a frequency domain by using the truncated subband filter coefficients having different lengths according to the subband. That is, the fast convolution may be performed between QMF domain subband audio signals and the truncated subband filters of the QMF domain corresponding thereto for each frequency band. In the specification, a direct sound and early reflections (D&E) part may be referred to as a front (F)-part.

The late reverberation generation unit **240** generates a late reverberation signal for the input signal. The late reverberation signal represents an output signal which follows the

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direct sound and the early reflections sound generated by the fast convolution unit **230**. The late reverberation generation unit **240** may process the input signal based on reverberation time information determined by each of the subband filter coefficients transferred from the BRIR parameterization unit **210**. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the late reverberation generation unit **240** may generate a mono or stereo downmix signal for an input audio signal and perform late reverberation processing of the generated downmix signal. In the specification, a late reverberation (LR) part may be referred to as a parametric (P)-part.

The QMF domain tapped delay line (QTDL) processing unit **250** processes signals in high-frequency bands among the input audio signals. The QTDL processing unit **250** receives at least one parameter, which corresponds to each subband signal in the high-frequency bands, from the BRIR parameterization unit **210** and performs tap-delay line filtering in the QMF domain by using the received parameter. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the binaural renderer **200** separates the input audio signals into low-frequency band signals and high-frequency band signals based on a predetermined constant or a predetermined frequency band, and the low-frequency band signals may be processed by the fast convolution unit **230** and the late reverberation generation unit **240**, and the high frequency band signals may be processed by the QTDL processing unit **250**, respectively.

Each of the fast convolution unit **230**, the late reverberation generation unit **240**, and the QTDL processing unit **250** outputs the 2-channel QMF domain subband signal. The mixer & combiner **260** combines and mixes the output signal of the fast convolution unit **230**, the output signal of the late reverberation generation unit **240**, and the output signal of the QTDL processing unit **250**. In this case, the combination of the output signals is performed separately for each of left and right output signals of 2 channels. The binaural renderer **200** performs QMF synthesis to the combined output signals to generate a final output audio signal in the time domain.

Hereinafter, various exemplary embodiments of the fast convolution unit **230**, the late reverberation generation unit **240**, and the QTDL processing unit **250** which are illustrated in FIG. 2, and a combination thereof will be described in detail with reference to each drawing.

FIGS. 3 to 7 illustrate various exemplary embodiments of an apparatus for processing an audio signal according to the present invention. In the present invention, the apparatus for processing an audio signal may indicate the binaural renderer **200** or the binaural rendering unit **220**, which is illustrated in FIG. 2, as a narrow meaning. However, in the present invention, the apparatus for processing an audio signal may indicate the audio signal decoder of FIG. 1, which includes the binaural renderer, as a broad meaning. Each binaural renderer illustrated in FIGS. 3 to 7 may indicate only some components of the binaural renderer **200** illustrated in FIG. 2 for the convenience of description. Further, hereinafter, in the specification, an exemplary embodiment of the multi-channel input signals will be primarily described, but unless otherwise described, a channel, multi-channels, and the multi-channel input signals may be used as concepts including an object, multi-objects, and the multi-object input signals, respectively. Moreover, the multi-channel input signals may also be used as a concept including an HOA decoded and rendered signal.

FIG. 3 illustrates a binaural renderer **200A** according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. When the

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binaural rendering using the BRIR is generalized, the binaural rendering is M-to-O processing for acquiring O output signals for the multi-channel input signals having M channels. Binaural filtering may be regarded as filtering using filter coefficients corresponding to each input channel and each output channel during such a process. In FIG. 3, an original filter set H means transfer functions up to locations of left and right ears from a speaker location of each channel signal. A transfer function measured in a general listening room, that is, a reverberant space among the transfer functions is referred to as the binaural room impulse response (BRIR). On the contrary, a transfer function measured in an anechoic room so as not to be influenced by the reproduction space is referred to as a head related impulse response (HRIR), and a transfer function therefor is referred to as a head related transfer function (HRTF). Accordingly, differently from the HRTF, the BRIR contains information of the reproduction space as well as directional information. According to an exemplary embodiment, the BRIR may be substituted by using the HRTF and an artificial reverberator. In the specification, the binaural rendering using the BRIR is described, but the present invention is not limited thereto, and the present invention may be applied even to the binaural rendering using various types of FIR filters including HRIR and HRTF by a similar or a corresponding method. Furthermore, the present invention can be applied to various forms of filterings for input signals as well as the binaural rendering for the audio signals. Meanwhile, the BRIR may have a length of 96K samples as described above, and since multi-channel binaural rendering is performed by using different M*O filters, a processing process with a high computational complexity is required.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit **210** may generate filter coefficients transformed from the original filter set H for optimizing the computational complexity. The BRIR parameterization unit **210** separates original filter coefficients into front (F)-part coefficients and parametric (P)-part coefficients. Herein, the F-part represents a direct sound and early reflections (D&E) part, and the P-part represents a late reverberation (LR) part. For example, original filter coefficients having a length of 96K samples may be separated into each of an F-part in which only front 4K samples are truncated and a P-part which is a part corresponding to residual 92K samples.

The binaural rendering unit **220** receives each of the F-part coefficients and the P-part coefficients from the BRIR parameterization unit **210** and performs rendering the multi-channel input signals by using the received coefficients. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the fast convolution unit **230** illustrated in FIG. 2 may render the multi-audio signals by using the F-part coefficients received from the BRIR parameterization unit **210**, and the late reverberation generation unit **240** may render the multi-audio signals by using the P-part coefficients received from the BRIR parameterization unit **210**. That is, the fast convolution unit **230** and the late reverberation generation unit **240** may correspond to an F-part rendering unit and a P-part rendering unit of the present invention, respectively. According to an exemplary embodiment, F-part rendering (binaural rendering using the F-part coefficients) may be implemented by a general finite impulse response (FIR) filter, and P-part rendering (binaural rendering using the P-part coefficients) may be implemented by a parametric method. Meanwhile, a complexity-quality con-

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trol input provided by a user or a control system may be used to determine information generated to the F-part and/or the P-part.

FIG. 4 illustrates a more detailed method that implements F-part rendering by a binaural renderer **200B** according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. For the convenience of description, the P-part rendering unit is omitted in FIG. 4. Further, FIG. 4 illustrates a filter implemented in the QMF domain, but the present invention is not limited thereto and may be applied to subband processing of other domains.

Referring to FIG. 4, the F-part rendering may be performed by the fast convolution unit **230** in the QMF domain. For rendering in the QMF domain, a QMF analysis unit **222** converts time domain input signals $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{M-1}$ into QMF domain signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$. In this case, the input signals $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{M-1}$ may be the multi-channel audio signals, that is, channel signals corresponding to the 22.2-channel speakers. In the QMF domain, a total of 64 subbands may be used, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Meanwhile, according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the QMF analysis unit **222** may be omitted from the binaural renderer **200B**. In the case of HE-AAC or USAC using spectral band replication (SBR), since processing is performed in the QMF domain, the binaural renderer **200B** may immediately receive the QMF domain signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ as the input without QMF analysis. Accordingly, when the QMF domain signals are directly received as the input as described above, the QMF used in the binaural renderer according to the present invention is the same as the QMF used in the previous processing unit (that is, the SBR). A QMF synthesis unit **244** QMF-synthesizes left and right signals Y_L and Y_R of 2 channels, in which the binaural rendering is performed, to generate 2-channel output audio signals y_L and y_R of the time domain.

FIGS. 5 to 7 illustrate exemplary embodiments of binaural renderers **200C**, **200D**, and **200E**, which perform both F-part rendering and P-part rendering, respectively. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 5 to 7, the F-part rendering is performed by the fast convolution unit **230** in the QMF domain, and the P-part rendering is performed by the late reverberation generation unit **240** in the QMF domain or the time domain. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 5 to 7, detailed description of parts duplicated with the exemplary embodiments of the previous drawings will be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 5, the binaural renderer **200C** may perform both the F-part rendering and the P-part rendering in the QMF domain. That is, the QMF analysis unit **222** of the binaural renderer **200C** converts time domain input signals $x_0, x_1, \dots, x_{M-1}$ into QMF domain signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ to transfer each of the converted QMF domain signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ to the fast convolution unit **230** and the late reverberation generation unit **240**. The fast convolution unit **230** and the late reverberation generation unit **240** render the QMF domain signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ to generate 2-channel output signals Y_L, Y_R and Y_{Lp}, Y_{Rp} , respectively. In this case, the fast convolution unit **230** and the late reverberation generation unit **240** may perform rendering by using the F-part filter coefficients and the P-part filter coefficients received by the BRIR parameterization unit **210**, respectively. The output signals Y_L and Y_R of the F-part rendering and the output signals Y_{Lp} and Y_{Rp} of the P-part rendering are combined for each of the left and right channels in the mixer & combiner **260** and transferred to the QMF synthesis unit **224**. The QMF syn-

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thesis unit **224** QMF-synthesizes input left and right signals of 2 channels to generate 2-channel output audio signals y_L and y_R of the time domain.

Referring to FIG. 6, the binaural renderer **200D** may perform the F-part rendering in the QMF domain and the P-part rendering in the time domain. The QMF analysis unit **222** of the binaural renderer **200D** QMF-converts the time domain input signals and transfers the converted time domain input signals to the fast convolution unit **230**. The fast convolution unit **230** performs F-part rendering the QMF domain signals to generate the 2-channel output signals Y_L and Y_R . The QMF synthesis unit **224** converts the output signals of the F-part rendering into the time domain output signals and transfers the converted time domain output signals to the mixer & combiner **260**. Meanwhile, the late reverberation generation unit **240** performs the P-part rendering by directly receiving the time domain input signals. The output signals y_{LP} and y_{RP} of the P-part rendering are transferred to the mixer & combiner **260**. The mixer & combiner **260** combines the F-part rendering output signal and the P-part rendering output signal in the time domain to generate the 2-channel output audio signals y_L and y_R in the time domain.

In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 5 and 6, the F-part rendering and the P-part rendering are performed in parallel, while according to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 7, the binaural renderer **200E** may sequentially perform the F-part rendering and the P-part rendering. That is, the fast convolution unit **230** may perform F-part rendering the QMF-converted input signals, and the QMF synthesis unit **224** may convert the F-part-rendered 2-channel signals Y_L and Y_R into the time domain signal and thereafter, transfer the converted time domain signal to the late reverberation generation unit **240**. The late reverberation generation unit **240** performs P-part rendering the input 2-channel signals to generate 2-channel output audio signals y_L and y_R of the time domain.

FIGS. 5 to 7 illustrate exemplary embodiments of performing the F-part rendering and the P-part rendering, respectively, and the exemplary embodiments of the respective drawings are combined and modified to perform the binaural rendering. That is to say, in each exemplary embodiment, the binaural renderer may downmix the input signals into the 2-channel left and right signals or a mono signal and thereafter perform P-part rendering the downmix signal as well as discretely performing the P-part rendering each of the input multi-audio signals.

<Variable Order Filtering in Frequency-Domain (VOFF)>

FIGS. 8 to 10 illustrate methods for generating an FIR filter for binaural rendering according to exemplary embodiments of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiments of the present invention, an FIR filter, which is converted into the plurality of subband filters of the QMF domain, may be used for the binaural rendering in the QMF domain. In this case, subband filters truncated dependently on each subband may be used for the F-part rendering. That is, the fast convolution unit of the binaural renderer may perform variable order filtering in the QMF domain by using the truncated subband filters having different lengths according to the subband. Hereinafter, the exemplary embodiments of the filter generation in FIGS. 8 to 10, which will be described below, may be performed by the BRIR parameterization unit **210** of FIG. 2.

FIG. 8 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of a length according to each QMF band of a QMF domain filter used for binaural rendering. In the exemplary embodiment of

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FIG. 8, the FIR filter is converted into I QMF subband filters, and F_i represents a truncated subband filter of a QMF subband i . In the QMF domain, a total of 64 subbands may be used, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Further, N represents the length (the number of taps) of the original subband filter, and the lengths of the truncated subband filters are represented by N_1 , N_2 , and N_3 , respectively. In this case, the lengths N , N_1 , N_2 , and N_3 represent the number of taps in a downsampled QMF domain (that is, QMF timeslot).

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the truncated subband filters having different lengths N_1 , N_2 , and N_3 according to each subband may be used for the F-part rendering. In this case, the truncated subband filter is a front filter truncated in the original subband filter and may be also designated as a front subband filter. Further, a rear part after truncating the original subband filter may be designated as a rear subband filter and used for the P-part rendering.

In the case of rendering using the BRIR filter, a filter order (that is, filter length) for each subband may be determined based on parameters extracted from an original BRIR filter, that is, reverberation time (RT) information for each subband filter, an energy decay curve (EDC) value, energy decay time information, and the like. A reverberation time may vary depending on the frequency due to acoustic characteristics in which decay in air and a sound-absorption degree depending on materials of a wall and a ceiling vary for each frequency. In general, a signal having a lower frequency has a longer reverberation time. Since the long reverberation time means that more information remains in the rear part of the FIR filter, it is preferable to truncate the corresponding filter long in normally transferring reverberation information. Accordingly, the length of each truncated subband filter of the present invention is determined based at least in part on the characteristic information (for example, reverberation time information) extracted from the corresponding subband filter.

The length of the truncated subband filter may be determined according to various exemplary embodiments. First, according to an exemplary embodiment, each subband may be classified into a plurality of groups, and the length of each truncated subband filter may be determined according to the classified groups. According to an example of FIG. 8, each subband may be classified into three zones Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3, and truncated subband filters of Zone 1 corresponding to a low frequency may have a longer filter order (that is, filter length) than truncated subband filters of Zone 2 and Zone 3 corresponding to a high frequency. Further, the filter order of the truncated subband filter of the corresponding zone may gradually decrease toward a zone having a high frequency.

According to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the length of each truncated subband filter may be determined independently and variably for each subband according to characteristic information of the original subband filter. The length of each truncated subband filter is determined based on the truncation length determined in the corresponding subband and is not influenced by the length of a truncated subband filter of a neighboring or another subband. That is to say, the lengths of some or all truncated subband filters of Zone 2 may be longer than the length of at least one truncated subband filter of Zone 1.

According to yet another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the variable order filtering in frequency domain may be performed with respect to only some of subbands classified into the plurality of groups. That is,

truncated subband filters having different lengths may be generated with respect to only subbands that belong to some group(s) among at least two classified groups. According to an exemplary embodiment, the group in which the truncated subband filter is generated may be a subband group (that is to say, Zone 1) classified into low-frequency bands based on a predetermined constant or a predetermined frequency band. For example, when the sampling frequency of the original BRIR filter is 48 kHz, the original BRIR filter may be transformed to a total of 64 QMF subband filters ($I=64$). In this case, the truncated subband filters may be generated only with respect to subbands corresponding to 0 to 12 kHz bands which are half of all 0 to 24 kHz bands, that is, a total of 32 subbands having indexes 0 to 31 in the order of low frequency bands. In this case, according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a length of the truncated subband filter of the subband having the index of 0 is larger than that of the truncated subband filter of the subband having the index of 31.

The length of the truncated filter may be determined based on additional information obtained by the apparatus for processing an audio signal, that is, complexity, a complexity level (profile), or required quality information of the decoder. The complexity may be determined according to a hardware resource of the apparatus for processing an audio signal or a value directly input by the user. The quality may be determined according to a request of the user or determined with reference to a value transmitted through the bitstream or other information included in the bitstream. Further, the quality may also be determined according to a value obtained by estimating the quality of the transmitted audio signal, that is to say, as a bit rate is higher, the quality may be regarded as a higher quality. In this case, the length of each truncated subband filter may proportionally increase according to the complexity and the quality and may vary with different ratios for each band. Further, in order to acquire an additional gain by high-speed processing such as FFT to be described below, and the like, the length of each truncated subband filter may be determined as a size unit corresponding to the additional gain, that is to say, a multiple of the power of 2. On the contrary, when the determined length of the truncated subband filter is longer than a total length of an actual subband filter, the length of the truncated subband filter may be adjusted to the length of the actual subband filter.

The BRIR parameterization unit generates the truncated subband filter coefficients (F-part coefficients) corresponding to the respective truncated subband filters determined according to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment, and transfers the generated truncated subband filter coefficients to the fast convolution unit. The fast convolution unit performs the variable order filtering in frequency domain of each subband signal of the multi-audio signals by using the truncated subband filter coefficients.

FIG. 9 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of a length for each QMF band of a QMF domain filter used for binaural rendering. In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 9, duplicative description of parts, which are the same as or correspond to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 8, will be omitted.

In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 9, F_i represents a truncated subband filter (front subband filter) used for the F-part rendering of the QMF subband i , and P_i represents a rear subband filter used for the P-part rendering of the QMF subband i . N represents the length (the number of taps) of the original subband filter, and N_iF and N_iP represent the lengths of a front subband filter and a rear subband filter of

the subband i , respectively. As described above, N_iF and N_iP represent the number of taps in the downsampled QMF domain.

According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 9, the length of the rear subband filter may also be determined based on the parameters extracted from the original subband filter as well as the front subband filter. That is, the lengths of the front subband filter and the rear subband filter of each subband are determined based at least in part on the characteristic information extracted in the corresponding subband filter. For example, the length of the front subband filter may be determined based on first reverberation time information of the corresponding subband filter, and the length of the rear subband filter may be determined based on second reverberation time information. That is, the front subband filter may be a filter at a truncated front part based on the first reverberation time information in the original subband filter, and the rear subband filter may be a filter at a rear part corresponding to a zone between a first reverberation time and a second reverberation time as a zone which follows the front subband filter. According to an exemplary embodiment, the first reverberation time information may be RT_{20} , and the second reverberation time information may be RT_{60} , but the present invention is not limited thereto.

A part where an early reflections sound part is switched to a late reverberation sound part is present within a second reverberation time. That is, a point is present, where a zone having a deterministic characteristic is switched to a zone having a stochastic characteristic, and the point is called a mixing time in terms of the BRIR of the entire band. In the case of a zone before the mixing time, information providing directionality for each location is primarily present, and this is unique for each channel. On the contrary, since the late reverberation part has a common feature for each channel, it may be efficient to process a plurality of channels at once. Accordingly, the mixing time for each subband is estimated to perform the fast convolution through the F-part rendering before the mixing time and perform processing in which a common characteristic for each channel is reflected through the P-part rendering after the mixing time.

However, an error may occur by a bias from a perceptual viewpoint at the time of estimating the mixing time. Therefore, performing the fast convolution by maximizing the length of the F-part is more excellent from a quality viewpoint than separately processing the F-part and the P-part based on the corresponding boundary by estimating an accurate mixing time. Therefore, the length of the F-part, that is, the length of the front subband filter may be longer or shorter than the length corresponding to the mixing time according to complexity-quality control.

Moreover, in order to reduce the length of each subband filter, in addition to the aforementioned truncation method, when a frequency response of a specific subband is monotonic, modeling that reduces the filter of the corresponding subband to a low order is available. As a representative method, there is FIR filter modeling using frequency sampling, and a filter minimized from a least square viewpoint may be designed.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the lengths of the front subband filter and/or the rear subband filter for each subband may have the same value for each channel of the corresponding subband. An error in measurement may be present in the BRIR, and an error element such as the bias, or the like is present even in estimating the reverberation time. Accordingly, in order to reduce the influence, the length of the filter may be determined based on a mutual relationship between channels or

between subbands. According to an exemplary embodiment, the BRIR parameterization unit may extract first characteristic information (that is to say, the first reverberation time information) from the subband filter corresponding to each channel of the same subband and acquire single filter order information (alternatively, first truncation point information) for the corresponding subband by combining the extracted first characteristic information. The front subband filter for each channel of the corresponding subband may be determined to have the same length based on the obtained filter order information (alternatively, first truncation point information). Similarly, the BRIR parameterization unit may extract second characteristic information (that is to say, the second reverberation time information) from the subband filter corresponding to each channel of the same subband and acquire second truncation point information, which is to be commonly applied to the rear subband filter corresponding to each channel of the corresponding subband, by combining the extracted second characteristic information. Herein, the front subband filter may be a filter at a truncated front part based on the first truncation point information in the original subband filter, and the rear subband filter may be a filter at a rear part corresponding to a zone between the first truncation point and the second truncation point as a zone which follows the front subband filter.

Meanwhile, according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, only the F-part processing may be performed with respect to subbands of a specific subband group. In this case, when processing is performed with respect to the corresponding subband by using only a filter up to the first truncation point, distortion at a level for the user to perceive may occur due to a difference in energy of processed filter as compared with the case in which the processing is performed by using the whole subband filter. In order to prevent the distortion, energy compensation for an area which is not used for the processing, that is, an area following the first truncation point may be achieved in the corresponding subband filter. The energy compensation may be performed by dividing the F-part coefficients (front subband filter coefficients) by filter power up to the first truncation point of the corresponding subband filter and multiplying the divided F-part coefficients (front subband filter coefficients) by energy of a desired area, that is, total power of the corresponding subband filter. Accordingly, the energy of the F-part coefficients may be adjusted to be the same as the energy of the whole subband filter. Further, although the P part coefficients are transmitted from the BRIR parameterization unit, the binaural rendering unit may not perform the P-part processing based on the complexity-quality control. In this case, the binaural rendering unit may perform the energy compensation for the F-part coefficients by using the P-part coefficients.

In the F-part processing by the aforementioned methods, the filter coefficients of the truncated subband filters having different lengths for each subband are obtained from a single time domain filter (that is, a proto-type filter). That is, since the single time domain filter is converted into a plurality of QMF subband filters and the lengths of the filters corresponding to each subband are varied, each truncated subband filter is obtained from a single proto-type filter.

The BRIR parameterization unit generates the front subband filter coefficients (F-part coefficients) corresponding to each front subband filter determined according to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment and transfers the generated front subband filter coefficients to the fast convolution

multi-audio signals by using the received front subband filter coefficients. Further, the BRIR parameterization unit may generate the rear subband filter coefficients (P-part coefficients) corresponding to each rear subband filter determined according to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment and transfer the generated rear subband filter coefficients to the late reverberation generation unit. The late reverberation generation unit may perform reverberation processing of each subband signal by using the received rear subband filter coefficients. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit may combine the rear subband filter coefficients for each channel to generate downmix subband filter coefficients (downmix P-part coefficients) and transfer the generated downmix subband filter coefficients to the late reverberation generation unit. As described below, the late reverberation generation unit may generate 2-channel left and right subband reverberation signals by using the received downmix subband filter coefficients.

FIG. 10 illustrates yet another exemplary embodiment of a method for generating an FIR filter used for binaural rendering. In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 10, duplicative description of parts, which are the same as or correspond to the exemplary embodiment of FIGS. 8 and 9, will be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 10, the plurality of subband filters, which are QMF-converted, may be classified into the plurality of groups, and different processing may be applied for each of the classified groups. For example, the plurality of subbands may be classified into a first subband group Zone 1 having low frequencies and a second subband group Zone 2 having high frequencies based on a predetermined frequency band (QMF band i). In this case, the F-part rendering may be performed with respect to input subband signals of the first subband group, and QTDL processing to be described below may be performed with respect to input subband signals of the second subband group.

Accordingly, the BRIR parameterization unit generates the front subband filter coefficients for each subband of the first subband group and transfers the generated front subband filter coefficients to the fast convolution unit. The fast convolution unit performs the F-part rendering of the subband signals of the first subband group by using the received front subband filter coefficients. According to an exemplary embodiment, the P-part rendering of the subband signals of the first subband group may be additionally performed by the late reverberation generation unit. Further, the BRIR parameterization unit obtains at least one parameter from each of the subband filter coefficients of the second subband group and transfers the obtained parameter to the QTDL processing unit. The QTDL processing unit performs tap-delay line filtering of each subband signal of the second subband group as described below by using the obtained parameter. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the predetermined frequency (QMF band i) for distinguishing the first subband group and the second subband group may be determined based on a predetermined constant value or determined according to a bitstream characteristic of the transmitted audio input signal. For example, in the case of the audio signal using the SBR, the second subband group may be set to correspond to an SBR bands.

According to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the plurality of subbands may be classified into three subband groups based on a predetermined first frequency band (QMF band i) and a predetermined second frequency band (QMF band j). That is, the plurality of subbands may be classified into a first subband group Zone

1 which is a low-frequency zone equal to or lower than the first frequency band, a second subband group Zone 2 which is an intermediate-frequency zone higher than the first frequency band and equal to or lower than the second frequency band, and a third subband group Zone 3 which is a high-frequency zone higher than the second frequency band. For example, when a total of 64 QMF subbands (subband indexes 0 to 63) are divided into the 3 subband groups, the first subband group may include a total of 32 subbands having indexes 0 to 31, the second subband group may include a total of 16 subbands having indexes 32 to 47, and the third subband group may include subbands having residual indexes 48 to 63. Herein, the subband index has a lower value as a subband frequency becomes lower.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the binaural rendering may be performed only with respect to subband signals of the first and second subband groups. That is, as described above, the F-part rendering and the P-part rendering may be performed with respect to the subband signals of the first subband group and the QTDL processing may be performed with respect to the subband signals of the second subband group. Further, the binaural rendering may not be performed with respect to the subband signals of the third subband group. Meanwhile, information (Kproc=48) of a maximum frequency band to perform the binaural rendering and information (Kconv=32) of a frequency band to perform the convolution may be predetermined values or be determined by the BRIR parameterization unit to be transferred to the binaural rendering unit. In this case, a first frequency band (QMF band i) is set as a subband of an index Kconv-1 and a second frequency band (QMF band j) is set as a subband of an index Kproc-1. Meanwhile, the values of the information (Kproc) of the maximum frequency band and the information (Kconv) of the frequency band to perform the convolution may be varied by a sampling frequency of an original BRIR input, a sampling frequency of an input audio signal, and the like.

<Late Reverberation Rendering>

Next, various exemplary embodiments of the P-part rendering of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 11 to 14. That is, various exemplary embodiments of the late reverberation generation unit 240 of FIG. 2, which performs the P-part rendering in the QMF domain, will be described with reference to FIGS. 11 to 14. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 11 to 14, it is assumed that the multi-channel input signals are received as the subband signals of the QMF domain. Accordingly, processing of respective components of FIGS. 11 to 14, that is, a decorrelator 241, a subband filtering unit 242, an IC matching unit 243, a downmix unit 244, and an energy decay matching unit 246 may be performed for each QMF subband. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 11 to 14, detailed description of parts duplicated with the exemplary embodiments of the previous drawings will be omitted.

In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 8 to 10, P_i (P₁, P₂, P₃, ...) corresponding to the P-part is a rear part of each subband filter removed by frequency variable truncation and generally includes information on late reverberation. The length of the P-part may be defined as a whole filter after a truncation point of each subband filter according to the complexity-quality control, or defined as a smaller length with reference to the second reverberation time information of the corresponding subband filter.

The P-part rendering may be performed independently for each channel or performed with respect to a downmixed channel. Further, the P-part rendering may be applied through different processing for each predetermined sub-

band group or for each subband, or applied to all subbands as the same processing. In this case, processing applicable to the P-part may include energy decay compensation, tap-delay line filtering, processing using an infinite impulse response (IIR) filter, processing using an artificial reverberator, frequency-independent interaural coherence (FIIC) compensation, frequency-dependent interaural coherence (FDIC) compensation, and the like for input signals.

Meanwhile, it is important to generally conserve two features, that is, features of energy decay relief (EDR) and frequency-dependent interaural coherence (FDIC) for parametric processing for the P-part. First, when the P-part is observed from an energy viewpoint, it can be seen that the EDR may be the same or similar for each channel. Since the respective channels have common EDR, it is appropriate to downmix all channels to one or two channel(s) and thereafter, perform the P-part rendering of the downmixed channel(s) from the energy viewpoint. In this case, an operation of the P-part rendering, in which M convolutions need to be performed with respect to M channels, is decreased to the M-to-O downmix and one (alternatively, two) convolution, thereby providing a gain of a significant computational complexity.

Next, a process of compensating for the FDIC is required in the P-part rendering. There are various methods of estimating the FDIC, but the following equation may be used.

$$IC(i) = \frac{\Re \left[\sum_{k=0}^K H_L(i, k) H_R(i, k)^* \right]}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=0}^K |H_L(i, k)|^2 \sum_{k=0}^K |H_R(i, k)|^2}} \quad [\text{Equation 3}]$$

Herein, $H_m(i, k)$ represents a short time Fourier transform (STFT) coefficient of an impulse response $h_m(n)$, n represents a time index, i represents a frequency index, k represents a frame index, and m represents an output channel index L or R. Further, a function $\Re(x)$ of a numerator outputs a real-number value of an input x , and x^* represents a complex conjugate value of x . A numerator part in the equation may be substituted with a function having an absolute value instead of the real-number value.

Meanwhile, in the present invention, since the binaural rendering is performed in the QMF domain, the FDIC may be defined by an equation given below.

$$IC(i) = \frac{\Re \left[\sum_{k=0}^K h_L(i, k) h_R(i, k)^* \right]}{\sqrt{\sum_{k=0}^K |h_L(i, k)|^2 \sum_{k=0}^K |h_R(i, k)|^2}} \quad [\text{Equation 4}]$$

Herein, i represents a subband index, k represents a time index in the subband, and $h_m(i, k)$ represents the subband filter of the BRIR.

The FDIC of the late reverberation part is a parameter primarily influenced by locations of two microphones when the BRIR is recorded, and is not influenced by the location of the speaker, that is, a direction and a distance. When it is assumed that a head of a listener is a sphere, theoretical FDIC IC_{ideal} of the BRIR may satisfy an equation given below.

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$$IC_{ideal}(k) = \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \quad [\text{Equation 5}]$$

Herein, r represents a distance between both ears of the listener, that is, a distance between two microphones, and k represents the frequency index.

When the FDIC using the BRIRs of the plurality of channels is analyzed, it can be seen that the early reflections sound primarily included in the F-part varies for each channel. That is, the FDIC of the F-part varies very differently for each channel. Meanwhile, the FDIC varies very largely in the case of high-frequency bands, but the reason is that a large measurement error occurs due to a characteristic of high-frequency band signals of which energy is rapidly decayed, and when an average for each channel is obtained, the FDIC is almost converged to 0. On the contrary, a difference in FDIC for each channel occurs due to the measurement error even in the case of the P-part, but it can be confirmed that the FDIC is averagely converged to a sinc function shown in Equation 5. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the late reverberation generation unit for the P-part rendering may be implemented based on the aforementioned characteristic.

FIG. 11 illustrates a late reverberation generation unit 240A according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 11, the late reverberation generation unit 240A may include a subband filtering unit 242 and downmix units 244a and 244b.

The subband filtering unit 242 filters the multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ for each subband by using the P-part coefficients. The P-part coefficients may be received from the BRIR parameterization unit (not illustrated) as described above and include coefficients of rear subband filters having different lengths for each subband. The subband filtering unit 242 performs fast convolution between the QMF domain subband signal and the rear subband filter of the QMF domain corresponding thereto for each frequency. In this case, the length of the rear subband filter may be determined based on the RT60 as described above, but set to a value larger or smaller than the RT60 according to the complexity-quality control.

The multi-channel input signals are rendered to $X_{L0}, X_{L1}, \dots, X_{LM-1}$, which are left-channel signals, and $X_{R0}, X_{R1}, \dots, X_{RM-1}$, which are right-channel signals, by the subband filtering unit 242, respectively. The downmix units 244a and 244b downmix the plurality of rendered left-channel signals and the plurality of rendered right-channel signals for left and right channels, respectively, to generate 2-channel left and right output signals Y_{Lp} and Y_{Rp} .

FIG. 12 illustrates a late reverberation generation unit 240B according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 12, the late reverberation generation unit 240B may include a decorrelator 241, an IC matching unit 243, downmix units 244a and 244b, and energy decay matching units 246a and 246b. Further, for processing of the late reverberation generation unit 240B, the BRIR parameterization unit (not illustrated) may include an IC estimation unit 213 and a downmix subband filter generation unit 216.

According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 12, the late reverberation generation unit 240B may reduce the computational complexity by using that energy decay characteristics of the late reverberation part for respective chan-

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nels are the same as each other. That is, the late reverberation generation unit 240B performs decorrelation and interaural coherence (IC) adjustment of each multi-channel signal, downmixes adjusted input signals and decorrelation signals for each channel to left and right-channel signals, and compensates for energy decay of the downmixed signals to generate the 2-channel left and right output signals. In more detail, the decorrelator 241 generates decorrelation signals $D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{M-1}$ for respective multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$. The decorrelator 241 is a kind of preprocessor for adjusting coherence between both ears, and may adopt a phase randomizer, and a phase of an input signal may be changed by a unit of 90° for efficiency of the computational complexity.

Meanwhile, the IC estimation unit 213 of the BRIR parameterization unit (not illustrated) estimates an IC value and transfers the estimated IC value to the binaural rendering unit (not illustrated). The binaural rendering unit may store the received IC value in a memory 255 and transfers the received IC value to the IC matching unit 243. The IC matching unit may directly receive the IC value from the BRIR parameterization unit and, alternatively, acquire the IC value prestored in the memory 255. The input signals and the decorrelation signals for respective channels are rendered to $X_{L0}, X_{L1}, \dots, X_{LM-1}$, which are the left-channel signals, and $X_{R0}, X_{R1}, \dots, X_{RM-1}$, which are the right-channel signals, in the IC matching unit 243. The IC matching unit 243 performs weighted summing between the decorrelation signal and the original input signal for each channel by referring to the IC value, and adjusts coherence between both channel signals through the weighted summing. In this case, since the input signal for each channel is a signal of the subband domain, the aforementioned FDIC matching may be achieved. When an original channel signal is represented by X , a decorrelation channel signal is represented by D , and an IC of the corresponding subband is represented by ϕ , the left and right channel signals X_L and X_R , which are subjected to IC matching, may be expressed by an equation given below.

$$X_L = \sqrt{(1+\phi)/2} X \pm \sqrt{(1-\phi)/2} D$$

$$X_R = \sqrt{(1+\phi)/2} X \mp \sqrt{(1-\phi)/2} D$$

[Equation 6]

(Double Signs in Same Order)

The downmix units 244a and 244b downmix the plurality of rendered left-channel signals and the plurality of rendered right-channel signals for left and right channels, respectively, through the IC matching, thereby generating 2-channel left and right rendering signals. Next, the energy decay matching units 246a and 246b reflect energy decays of the 2-channel left and right rendering signals, respectively, to generate 2-channel left and right output signals Y_{Lp} and Y_{Rp} . The energy decay matching units 246a and 246b perform energy decay matching by using the downmix subband filter coefficients obtained from the downmix subband filter generation unit 216. The downmix subband filter coefficients are generated by a combination of the rear subband filter coefficients for respective channels of the corresponding subband. In other words, the downmix subband filter coefficient may include a subband filter coefficient having a root mean square value of amplitude response of the rear subband filter coefficient for each channel with respect to the corresponding subband. Therefore, the downmix subband filter coefficients reflect the energy decay characteristic of the late reverberation part for the corresponding subband signal. The downmix subband filter coefficients may include downmix subband filter coefficients

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downmixed in mono or stereo according to exemplary embodiments and be directly received from the BRIR parameterization unit similarly to the FDIC or obtained from values prestored in the memory 225. When BRIR in which the F-part is truncated in a k-th channel among M channels is represented by $BRIR_k$, BRIR in which up to N-th sample is truncated in the k-th channel is represented by $BRIR_{T,k}$, and a downmix subband filter coefficient in which energy of a truncated part after the N-th sample is compensated is represented by $BRIR_E$, $BRIR_E$ may be obtained by using an equation given below.

$BRIR_E(m) =$ [Equation 7]

$$\sqrt{\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{m'=0}^{\infty} (BRIR_k(m'))^2}{\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} \sum_{m'=0}^{N-1} (BRIR_{T,k}(m'))^2}} \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{k=0}^{M-1} (BRIR_{T,k}(m))^2}{M}}$$

where $BRIR_{T,k}(m) = \begin{cases} BRIR_k(m) & m < N \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$

FIG. 13 illustrates a late reverberation generation unit 240C according to yet another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Respective components of the late reverberation generation unit 240C of FIG. 13 may be the same as the respective components of the late reverberation generation unit 240B described in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 12, and both the late reverberation generation unit 240C and the late reverberation generation unit 240B may be partially different from each other in data processing order among the respective components.

According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 13, the late reverberation generation unit 240C may further reduce the computational complexity by using that the FDICs of the late reverberation part for respective channels are the same as each other. That is, the late reverberation generation unit 240C downmixes the respective multi-channel signals to the left and right channel signals, adjusts ICs of the downmixed left and right channel signals, and compensates for energy decay for the adjusted left and right channel signals, thereby generating the 2-channel left and right output signals.

In more detail, the decorrelator 241 generates decorrelation signals $D_0, D_1, \dots, D_{M-1}$ for respective multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$. Next, the downmix units 244a and 244b downmix the multi-channel input signals and the decorrelation signals, respectively, to generate 2-channel downmix signals X_{DMX} and D_{DMX} . The IC matching unit 243 performs weighted summing of the 2-channel downmix signals by referring to the IC values to adjust the coherence between both channel signals. The energy decay matching units 246a and 246b perform energy compensation for the left and right channel signals X_L and X_R , which are subjected to the IC matching by the IC matching unit 243, respectively, to generate 2-channel left and right output signals X_{Lp} and Y_{Rp} . In this case, energy compensation information used for energy compensation may include downmix subband filter coefficients for each subband.

FIG. 14 illustrates a late reverberation generation unit 240D according to still another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Respective components of the late reverberation generation unit 240D of FIG. 14 may be the same as the respective components of the late reverberation

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generation units 240B and 240C described in the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 12 and 13, but have a more simplified feature.

First, the downmix unit 244 downmixes the multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ for each subband to generate a mono downmix signal (that is, a mono subband signal) X_{DMX} . The energy decay matching unit 246 reflects an energy decay for the generated mono downmix signal. In this case, the downmix subband filter coefficients for each subband may be used in order to reflect the energy decay. Next, the decorrelator 241 generates a decorrelation signal D_{DMX} of the mono downmix signal reflected with the energy decay. The IC matching unit 243 performs weighted summing of the mono downmix signal reflected with the energy decay and the decorrelation signal by referring to the FDIC value and generates the 2-channel left and right output signals Y_{Lp} and Y_{Rp} through the weighted summing. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 14, since energy decay matching is performed with respect to the mono downmix signal X_{DMX} only once, the computational complexity may be further saved.

<QTDL Processing of High-Frequency Bands>

Next, various exemplary embodiments of the QTDL processing of the present invention will be described with reference to FIGS. 15 and 16. That is, various exemplary embodiments of the QTDL processing unit 250 of FIG. 2, which performs the QTDL processing in the QMF domain, will be described with reference to FIGS. 15 and 16. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 15 and 16, it is assumed that the multi-channel input signals are received as the subband signals of the QMF domain. Therefore, in the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 15 and 16, a tap-delay line filter and a one-tap-delay line filter may perform processing for each QMF subband. Further, the QTDL processing may be performed only with respect to input signals of high-frequency bands, which are classified based on the predetermined constant or the predetermined frequency band, as described above. When the spectral band replication (SBR) is applied to the input audio signal, the high-frequency bands may correspond to the SBR bands. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 15 and 16, detailed description of parts duplicated with the exemplary embodiments of the previous drawings will be omitted.

The spectral band replication (SBR) used for efficient encoding of the high-frequency bands is a tool for securing a bandwidth as large as an original signal by re-extending a bandwidth which is narrowed by throwing out signals of the high-frequency bands in low-bit rate encoding. In this case, the high-frequency bands are generated by using information of low-frequency bands, which are encoded and transmitted, and additional information of the high-frequency band signals transmitted by the encoder. However, distortion may occur in a high-frequency component generated by using the SBR due to generation of inaccurate harmonic. Further, the SBR bands are the high-frequency bands, and as described above, reverberation times of the corresponding frequency bands are very short. That is, the BRIR subband filters of the SBR bands have small effective information and a high decay rate. Accordingly, in BRIR rendering for the high-frequency bands corresponding to the SBR bands, performing the rendering by using a small number of effective taps may be still more effective in terms of a computational complexity to the sound quality than performing the convolution.

FIG. 15 illustrates a QTDL processing unit 250A according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 15, the

QTDL processing unit **250A** performs filtering for each subband for the multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ by using the tap-delay line filter. The tap-delay line filter performs convolution of only a small number of predetermined taps with respect to each channel signal. In this case, the small number of taps used at this time may be determined based on a parameter directly extracted from the BRIR subband filter coefficients corresponding to the relevant subband signal. The parameter includes delay information for each tap, which is to be used for the tap-delay line filter, and gain information corresponding thereto.

The number of taps used for the tap-delay line filter may be determined by the complexity-quality control. The QTDL processing unit **250A** receives parameter set(s) (gain information and delay information), which corresponds to the relevant number of tap(s) for each channel and for each subband, from the BRIR parameterization unit, based on the determined number of taps. In this case, the received parameter set may be extracted from the BRIR subband filter coefficients corresponding to the relevant subband signal and determined according to various exemplary embodiments. For example, parameter set(s) for respective extracted peaks as many as the determined number of taps among a plurality of peaks of the corresponding BRIR subband filter coefficients in the order of an absolute value, the order of the value of a real part, or the order of the value of an imaginary part may be received. In this case, delay information of each parameter indicates positional information of the corresponding peak and has a sample based integer value in the QMF domain. Further, the gain information is determined based on the size of the peak corresponding to the delay information. In this case, as the gain information, a weighted value of the corresponding peak after energy compensation for whole subband filter coefficients is performed may be used as well as the corresponding peak value itself in the subband filter coefficients. The gain information is obtained by using both a real-number of the weighted value and an imaginary-number of the weighted value for the corresponding peak to thereby have the complex value.

The plurality of channels signals filtered by the tap-delay line filter is summed to the 2-channel left and right output signals Y_L and Y_R for each subband. Meanwhile, the parameter used in each tap-delay line filter of the QTDL processing unit **250A** may be stored in the memory during an initialization process for the binaural rendering and the QTDL processing may be performed without an additional operation for extracting the parameter.

FIG. 16 illustrates a QTDL processing unit **250B** according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 16, the QTDL processing unit **250B** performs filtering for each subband for the multi-channel input signals $X_0, X_1, \dots, X_{M-1}$ by using the one-tap-delay line filter. It may be appreciated that the one-tap-delay line filter performs the convolution only in one tap with respect to each channel signal. In this case, the used tap may be determined based on a parameter(s) directly extracted from the BRIR subband filter coefficients corresponding to the relevant subband signal. The parameter(s) includes delay information extracted from the BRIR subband filter coefficients and gain information corresponding thereto.

In FIG. 16, $L_0, L_1, \dots, L_{M-1}$ represent delays for the BRIRs with respect to M channels-left ear, respectively, and $R_0, R_1, \dots, R_{M-1}$ represent delays for the BRIRs with respect to M channels-right ear, respectively. In this case, the delay information represents positional information for the

maximum peak in the order of an absolute value, the value of a real part, or the value of an imaginary part among the BRIR subband filter coefficients. Further, in FIG. 16, $G_{L_0}, G_{L_1}, \dots, G_{L_{M-1}}$ represent gains corresponding to respective delay information of the left channel and $G_{R_0}, G_{R_1}, \dots, G_{R_{M-1}}$ represent gains corresponding to the respective delay information of the right channels, respectively. As described, each gain information is determined based on the size of the peak corresponding to the delay information. In this case, as the gain information, the weighted value of the corresponding peak after energy compensation for whole subband filter coefficients may be used as well as the corresponding peak value itself in the subband filter coefficients. The gain information is obtained by using both the real-number of the weighted value and the imaginary-number of the weighted value for the corresponding peak.

As described in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 15, the plurality of channel signals filtered by the one-tap-delay line filter are summed with the 2-channel left and right output signals Y_L and Y_R for each subband. Further, the parameter used in each one-tap-delay line filter of the QTDL processing unit **250B** may be stored in the memory during the initialization process for the binaural rendering and the QTDL processing may be performed without an additional operation for extracting the parameter.

<Block-Wise Fast Convolution>

FIGS. 17 to 19 illustrate a method for processing an audio signal by using a block-wise fast convolution according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. In the exemplary embodiments of FIGS. 17 to 19, a detailed description of parts duplicated with the exemplary embodiments of the previous drawings will be omitted.

According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, a predetermined block-wise fast convolution may be performed for optimal binaural rendering in terms of efficiency and performance. A fast convolution based on FFT has a characteristic in which as the size of the FFT increases, a calculation amount decreases, but an overall processing delay increases and a memory usage increases. When a BRIR having a length of 1 second is subjected to the fast convolution with an FFT size having a length twice the corresponding length, it is efficient in terms of the calculation amount, but a delay corresponding to 1 second occurs and a buffer and a processing memory corresponding thereto are required. An audio signal processing method having a long delay time is not suitable for an application for real-time data processing. Since a frame is a minimum unit by which decoding can be performed by the audio signal processing apparatus, the block-wise fast convolution is preferably performed with a size corresponding to the frame unit even in the binaural rendering.

FIG. 17 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of the audio signal processing method using the block-wise fast convolution. Similarly to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment, in the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 17, the prototype FIR filter is converted into I subband filters, and F_i represents a truncated subband filter of a subband i . The respective subbands Band 0 to Band $I-1$ may represent subbands in the frequency domain, that is, QMF subbands. In the QMF domain, a total of 64 subbands may be used, but the present invention is not limited thereto. Further, N represents the length (the number of taps) of the original subband filter and the lengths of the truncated subband filters are represented by N_1, N_2 , and N_3 , respectively. That is, the length of the truncated subband filter coefficients of subband i included in Zone 1 has the N_1 value, the length of the

truncated subband filter coefficients of subband i included in Zone 2 has the N_2 value, and the length of the truncated subband filter coefficients of subband i included in Zone 3 has the N_3 value. In this case, the lengths N , N_1 , N_2 , and N_3 represent the number of taps in a downsampled QMF domain. As described above, the length of the truncated subband filter may be independently determined for each of the subband groups Zone 1, Zone 2, and Zone 3 as illustrated in FIG. 17, or otherwise determined independently for each subband.

Referring to FIG. 17, the BRIR parameterization unit (alternatively, binaural rendering unit) of the present invention performs fast Fourier transform of the truncated subband filter coefficients by a predetermined block size in the corresponding subband (alternatively, subband group) to generate an FFT filter coefficients. In this case, the length M_i of the predetermined block in each subband i is determined based on a predetermined maximum FFT size L . In more detail, the length M_i of the predetermined block in subband i may be expressed by the following equation.

$$M_i = \min(L, 2N_i) \quad [\text{Equation 8}]$$

Where, L represents a predetermined maximum FFT size and N_i represents a reference filter length of the truncated subband filter coefficients.

That is, the length M_i of the predetermined block may be determined as a smaller value between a value twice the reference filter length N_i of the truncated subband filter coefficients and the predetermined maximum FFT size L . When the value twice the reference filter length N_i of the truncated subband filter coefficients is equal to or larger than (alternatively, larger than) the maximum FFT size L like Zone 1 and Zone 2 of FIG. 17, the length M_i of the predetermined block is determined as the maximum FFT size L . However, when the value twice the reference filter length N_i of the truncated subband filter coefficients is smaller than (equal to or smaller than) the maximum FFT size L like Zone 3 of FIG. 17, the length M_i of the predetermined block is determined as the value twice the reference filter length N_i . As described below, since the truncated subband filter coefficients are extended to a double length through zero-padding and thereafter, subjected to the fast Fourier transform, the length M_i of the block for the fast Fourier transform may be determined based on a comparison result between the value twice the reference filter length N_i and the predetermined maximum FFT size L .

Herein, the reference filter length N_i represents any one of a true value and an approximate value of a filter order (that is, the length of the truncated subband filter coefficients) in the corresponding subband in a form of power of 2. That is, when the filter order of subband i has the form of power of 2, the corresponding filter order is used as the reference filter length N_i in subband i and when the filter order of subband i does not have the form of power of 2, a round up value or a round down value of the corresponding filter order in the form of power of 2 is used as the reference filter length N_i . As an example, since N_3 which is a filter order of subband I-1 of Zone 3 is not a power of 2 value, N_3' which is an approximate value in the form of power of 2 may be used as a reference filter length N_{I-1} of the corresponding subband. In this case, since a value twice the reference filter length N_3' is smaller than the maximum FFT size L , a length M_{I-1} of the predetermined block in subband I-1 may be set to the value twice N_3' . Meanwhile, according to the exemplary embodiment of the present

invention, both the length M_i of the predetermined block and the reference filter length N_i may be the power of 2 value.

As described above, when the block length M_i in each subband is determined, the fast Fourier transform of the truncated subband filter coefficients is performed by the determined block size. In more detail, the BRIR parameterization unit partitions the truncated subband filter coefficients by the half $M_i/2$ of the predetermined block size. An area of a dotted line boundary of the F-part illustrated in FIG. 17 represents the subband filter coefficients partitioned by the half of the predetermined block size. Next, the BRIR parameterization unit generates temporary filter coefficients of the predetermined block size M_i by using the respective partitioned filter coefficients. In this case, a first half part of the temporary filter coefficients is constituted by the partitioned filter coefficients and a second half part is constituted by zero-padded values. Therefore, the temporary filter coefficients of the length M_i of the predetermined block is generated by using the filter coefficients of the half length $M_i/2$ of the predetermined block. Next, the BRIR parameterization unit performs the fast Fourier transform of the generated temporary filter coefficients to generate FFT filter coefficients. The generated FFT filter coefficients may be used for a predetermined block wise fast convolution for an input audio signal. That is, a fast convolution unit of the binaural renderer may perform the fast convolution by multiplying the generated FFT filter coefficients and a multi-audio signal corresponding thereto by a subframe size (for example, complex multiplication) as described below.

As described above, according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit performs the fast Fourier transform of the truncated subband filter coefficients by the block size determined independently for each subband (alternatively, for each subband group) to generate the FFT filter coefficients. As a result, a fast convolution using different numbers of blocks for each subband (alternatively, for each subband group) may be performed. In this case, the number k_i of blocks in subband i may satisfy the following equation.

$$2N_i = k_i * M_i \quad [\text{Equation 9}]$$

(K_i is a Natural Number)

That is, the number k_i of blocks in subband i may be determined as a value acquired by dividing the value twice the reference filter length N_i in the corresponding subband by the length M_i of the predetermined block.

FIG. 18 illustrates another exemplary embodiment of the audio signal processing method using the block-wise fast convolution. In the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 18, a duplicative description of parts, which are the same as or correspond to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 10 or 17, will be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 18, the plurality of subbands of the frequency domain may be classified into a first subband group Zone 1 having low frequencies and a second subband group Zone 2 having high frequencies based on a predetermined frequency band (QMF band i). Alternatively, the plurality of subbands may be classified into three subband groups, that is, the first subband group Zone 1, the second subband group Zone 2, and the third subband group Zone 3 based on a predetermined first frequency band (QMF band i) and a second frequency band (QMF band j). In this case, the F-part rendering using the block-wise fast convolution may be performed with respect to input subband signals of the first subband group, and the QTDL processing may be performed with respect to input subband signals of the

second subband group. In addition, the rendering may not be performed with respect to the subband signals of the third subband group.

Therefore, according to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the predetermined block-wise FFT filter coefficients generating process may be restrictively performed with respect to front subband filters F_i of the first subband group. Meanwhile, according to the exemplary embodiment, the P-part rendering of the subband signals of the first subband group may be performed by the late reverberation generation unit as described above. According to the exemplary embodiment, the late reverberation generation unit may also perform predetermined block-wise P-part rendering. To this end, the BRIR parameterization unit may generate predetermined block-wise FFT filter coefficients corresponding to rear subband filters P_i of the first subband group, respectively. Although not illustrated in FIG. 18, the BRIR parameterization unit performs the fast Fourier transform of coefficients of each rear subband filter P_i or a downmix subband filter (downmix P-part) by a predetermined block size to generate at least one FFT filter coefficient. The generated FFT filter coefficients are transferred to the late reverberation generation unit to be used for the P-part rendering of the input audio signal. That is, the late reverberation generation unit may perform the P-part rendering by complex-multiplying the acquired FFT filter coefficients and the subband signal of the first subband group corresponding thereto by the subframe size.

Further, as described above, the BRIR parameterization unit acquires at least one parameter from each subband filter coefficients of the second subband group and transfers the acquired parameter to the QTDL processing unit. As described above, the QTDL processing unit performs tap-delay line filtering of each subband signal of the second subband group by using the acquired parameter. Meanwhile, according to an additional exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the BRIR parameterization unit performs the predetermined block-wise fast Fourier transform of the acquired parameter to generate at least one FFT filter coefficient. The BRIR parameterization unit transfers the FFT filter coefficient corresponding to each subband of the second subband group to the QTDL processing unit. The QTDL processing unit may complex-multiply the acquired FFT filter coefficient and the subband signal of the second subband group corresponding thereto by the subframe size to perform the filtering.

The FFT filter coefficient generating process described in FIGS. 17 and 18 may be performed by the BRIR parameterization unit included in the binaural renderer. However, the present invention is not limited thereto and the FFT filter coefficient generating process may be performed by the BRIR parameterization unit separated apart from the binaural rendering unit. In this case, the BRIR parameterization unit transfers the truncated subband filter coefficients to the binaural rendering unit as the form of the block-wise FFT filter coefficients. That is, the truncated subband filter coefficients transferred from the BRIR parameterization unit to the binaural rendering unit are constituted by at least one FFT filter coefficient in which the block-wise fast Fourier transform has been performed.

Moreover, in the aforementioned exemplary embodiment, it is described that the FFT filter coefficient generating process using the block-wise fast Fourier transform is performed by the BRIR parameterization unit, but the present invention is not limited thereto. That is, according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the aforementioned FFT filter coefficient generating process may be

performed by the binaural rendering unit. The BRIR parameterization unit transmits the truncated subband filter coefficients obtained by truncating the BRIR subband filter coefficients to the binaural rendering unit. The binaural rendering unit receives the truncated subband filter coefficients from the BRIR parameterization unit and performs the fast Fourier transform of the truncated subband filter coefficients by the predetermined block size to generate at least one FFT filter coefficient.

FIG. 19 illustrates an exemplary embodiment of an audio signal processing procedure in a fast convolution unit of the present invention. According to the exemplary embodiment of FIG. 19, the fast convolution unit of the present invention performs the block-wise fast convolution to filter the input audio signal.

First, the fast convolution unit obtains at least one FFT filter coefficient constituting the truncated subband filter coefficients for filtering each subband signal. To this end, the fast convolution unit may receive the FFT filter coefficients from the BRIR parameterization unit. According to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the fast convolution unit (alternatively, the binaural rendering unit including the fast convolution unit) receives the truncated subband filter coefficients from the BRIR parameterization unit and performs the fast Fourier transform of the truncated subband filter coefficients by the predetermined block size to generate the FFT filter coefficients. According to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment, the length M_i of the predetermined block in each subband is determined and FFT filter coefficients FFT coef. 1 to FFT coef. k_i of which the number corresponding to the number k_i of blocks in the relevant subband are obtained.

Meanwhile, the fast convolution unit performs the fast Fourier transform of each subband signal of the input audio signal based on a predetermined subframe size in the corresponding subband. To this end, the fast convolution unit partitions the subband signal by the predetermined subframe size. In order to perform the block-wise fast convolution between the input audio signal and the truncated subband filter coefficients, the length of the subframe is determined based on the length M_i of the predetermined block in the corresponding subband. According to the exemplary embodiment of the present invention, since the respective partitioned subframes are extended to the double length through the zero-padding and thereafter, subjected to the fast Fourier transform, the length of the subframe may be determined as the half the length $M_i/2$ of the predetermined block. According to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the length of the subframe may be set to have the power of 2 value. Next, the fast convolution unit generates temporary subframes having double length (that is, length M_i) of the subframes by using the partitioned subframes (that is, subframe 1 to subframe K_i), respectively. In this case, the first half part of the temporary subframes is constituted by the partitioned subframes and the second half part is constituted by the zero-padded values. The fast convolution unit performs the fast Fourier transform of the generated temporary subframes to generate an FFT subframes. The fast convolution unit multiplies the fast-Fourier-transformed subframe (that is, FFT subframe) and the FFT filter coefficients to generate a filtered subframe.

A complex multiplier CMPY of the fast convolution unit performs the complex multiplication of the FFT subframe and the FFT filter coefficients to generate the filtered subframe. Next, the fast convolution unit performs inverse fast Fourier transform of each filtered subframe to generate a fast convoluted subframe (that is, Fast conv. subframe). The

fast convolution unit overlap-adds at least one inverse fast Fourier transformed subframe (that is, Fast conv. subframe) to generate the filtered subband signal. The filtered subband signal may configure an output audio signal in the corresponding subband. According to the exemplary embodiment, in a step before or after the inverse fast Fourier transform, subframes for each channel of the same subband may be added up to subframes for two output channels.

Further, in order to minimize the computational complexity of the inverse fast Fourier transform, filtered subframes obtained by performing the complex multiplication with FFT filter coefficients after a first FFT filter coefficient of the corresponding subband, that is, FFT coef. m (m is 2 to k_i) is stored in a memory (buffer), and as a result, the filtered subframes may be added up when a subframe after a current subframe is processed and thereafter, subjected to the inverse fast Fourier transform. For example, a filtered subframe obtained through the complex multiplication between a first FFT subframe (that is, FFT subframe 1) and a second FFT filter coefficients (that is FFT coef. 2) is stored in the buffer and thereafter, the filtered subframe is added to a filtered subframe obtained through the complex multiplication between a second FFT subframe (that is, FFT subframe 2) and a first FFT filter coefficients (that is, FFT coef. 1) at a time corresponding to the second subframe and the inverse fast Fourier transform may be performed with respect to the added subframe. Similarly, each of a filtered subframe obtained through the complex multiplication between the first FFT subframe (that is, FFT subframe 1) and a third FFT filter coefficients (that is, FFT coef. 3) and a filtered subframe obtained through the complex multiplication between the second FFT subframe (that is, FFT subframe 2) and a second FFT filter coefficients (that is, FFT coef. 2) may be stored in the buffer. The filtered subframes stored in the buffer are added to the filtered subframe obtained through the complex multiplication between the third FFT subframe (that is, FFT subframe 3) and the first FFT filter coefficients (that is, FFT coef. 1) at a time corresponding to a third subframe and the inverse fast Fourier transform may be performed with respect to the added subframe.

As yet another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the length of the subframe may have a value smaller than the half the length $M_i/2$ of the predetermined block. In this case, each subframe may be extended to the length M_i of the predetermined block through the zero padding and thereafter, subjected to the fast Fourier transform. Further, in the case of overlap-adding the filtered subframe generated by using the complex multiplier CMPLY of the fast convolution unit, an overlap interval may be determined based on not the length of the subframe but the half the length $M_i/2$ of the predetermined block.

Hereinabove, the present invention has been described through the detailed exemplary embodiments, but modification and changes of the present invention can be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the object and the scope of the present invention. That is, the exemplary embodiment of the binaural rendering for the multi-audio signals has been described in the present invention, but the present invention can be similarly applied and extended to even various multimedia signals including a video signal as well as the audio signal. Accordingly, it is analyzed that matters which can easily be analogized by those skilled in the art from the detailed description and the exemplary embodiment of the present invention are included in the claims of the present invention.

MODE FOR INVENTION

As above, related features have been described in the best mode.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

The present invention can be applied to various forms of apparatuses for processing a multimedia signal including an apparatus for processing an audio signal and an apparatus for processing a video signal, and the like.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for processing an audio signal, the method comprising:

receiving an input audio signal;

receiving a set of filter coefficients for each subband and each channel, wherein the set of filter coefficients is truncated frequency-dependently from a set of prototype subband filter coefficients based on a filter order for a corresponding subband, wherein the filter order determines a length of the set of filter coefficients for each subband and is determined to be variable in a frequency domain, and wherein the set of filter coefficients is constituted by one or more fast Fourier transform (FFT) filter coefficients generated by performing FFT by a predetermined block size in a corresponding subband;

generating one or more subframes for each subband by performing FFT to each subband signal of the input audio signal based on a predetermined subframe size; generating one or more filtered subframes for each subband, wherein each filtered subframe is generated by multiplying a corresponding subframe and FFT filter coefficients;

inverse fast Fourier transforming the one or more filtered subframes for each subband; and

generating a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding the one or more inverse Fourier transformed subframes for each subband.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the filter order is individually determined for each subband based at least in part on reverberation time information extracted from the corresponding set of proto-type subband filter coefficients.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the filter order has a single value for each subband.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined block size is determined to be a smaller value between a first value and a second value,

wherein the first value is obtained by multiplying a reference filter length of a corresponding set of filter coefficients by 2, and

wherein the second value is a predetermined maximum FFT size.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the reference filter length represents any one of a true value or an approximate value of the filter order in a form of power of 2.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein when the reference filter length is N and the predetermined block size corresponding thereto is M , the M is a value of power of 2 and $2N=kM$ is satisfied (k is a natural number).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the generating FFT filter coefficients further comprising:

partitioning each set of filter coefficients by a half of the predetermined block size;

generating temporary filter coefficients of the predetermined block size by using the partitioned filter coefficients, wherein a first half part of the temporary filter

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coefficients is constituted by the partitioned filter coefficients and a second half part of the temporary filter coefficients is constituted by zero-padded values; and generating the FFT filter coefficients by performing the FFT to the temporary filter coefficients.

8. An apparatus for processing an audio signal, the apparatus comprising:
 a processor configured to:
 receive an input audio signal;
 receive a set of filter coefficients for each subband and each channel, wherein the set of filter coefficients is truncated frequency-dependently from a set of proto-type subband filter coefficients based on a filter order for a corresponding subband, wherein the filter order determines a length of the set of filter coefficients for each subband and is determined to be variable in a frequency domain, and wherein the set of filter coefficients is constituted by one or more fast Fourier transform (FFT) filter coefficients generated by performing FFT by a predetermined block size in a corresponding subband;
 generate one or more subframes for each subband by performing FFT to each subband signal of the input audio signal based on a predetermined subframe size;
 generate one or more filtered subframes for each subband, wherein each filtered subframe is generated by multiplying a corresponding subframe and FFT filter coefficients;
 inverse fast Fourier transform the one or more filtered subframes for each subband; and
 generate a filtered subband signal by overlap-adding the one or more inverse Fourier transformed subframes for each subband.

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9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the filter order is individually determined for each subband based at least in part on reverberation time information extracted from the corresponding set of proto-type subband filter coefficients.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the filter order has a single value for each subband.

11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the predetermined block size is determined to be a smaller value between a first value and a second value,

wherein the first value is obtained by multiplying a reference filter length of a corresponding set of filter coefficients by 2, and

wherein the second value is a predetermined maximum FFT size.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the reference filter length represents any one of a true value or an approximate value of the filter order in a form of power of 2.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein when the reference filter length is N and the predetermined block size corresponding thereto is M, the M is a value of power of 2 and $2N=kM$ is satisfied (k is a natural number).

14. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the processor is further configured to:

partition each set of filter coefficients by a half of the predetermined block size;

generate temporary filter coefficients of the predetermined block size by using the partitioned filter coefficients, wherein a first half part of the temporary filter coefficients is constituted by the partitioned filter coefficients and a second half part of the temporary filter coefficients is constituted by zero-padded values; and

generate the FFT filter coefficients by performing the FFT to the temporary filter coefficients.

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